



# THE BANGLADESH TODAY

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THURSDAY

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## REGIONAL

### China, Australia agree to boost defence ties

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## ENTERTAINMENT

### It's Jacqueline Fernandez not Deepika Padukone in Sujoy Ghosh's next

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## SPORT

### Man United beats Stoke 2-1 for 4th straight win

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## Dhaka, KL sign 4 deals

PUTRAJAYA (MALAYSIA) : Bangladesh and Malaysia on Wednesday signed four deals in the fields of manpower export, tourism, art, culture and heritage for further strengthening the ties between the two brotherly nations, reports UNB.

The deals are an agreement on partial abolition of visa requirement, an MoU on cooperation in the field of tourism, one protocol amending the MoU of 2012 between Bangladesh and Malaysia on employment of workers and another MoU on cooperation in the field of culture, art and heritage. The signing ceremony was held at the Perdana Meeting Room of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) of Malaysia at Putrajaya after a restricted meeting between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Malaysian counterpart, followed by the bilateral meeting between Bangladesh and Malaysia.

Both the Bangladesh and Malaysian Prime Ministers witnessed the signing ceremony. Minister of Human Resources of Malaysia Dato Sri Richard Riot Anak Jaem and State Minister for Home Affairs of Bangladesh Asaduzzaman Khan signed the agreement on behalf of their respective countries on the partial abolition of visa requirement for the officials and diplomatic passport holders of both the countries. Dato Sri Richard Riot Anak Jaem and Bangladesh's Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Engineer Khandker Mosharraf Hossain inked the protocol amending the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the governments of Malaysia and Bangladesh on employment of workers.

## Mamata agrees with Delhi on Indo-Bangla enclave swap



Mamata Banerjee

DHAKA : The Trinamool Congress (TMC) government of West Bengal has decided to withdraw its objection to the long-pending land-swap deal between India and Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Chief Secretary Sanjay Mitra informed the Indian Union Home

Ministry last week that the state government wants to settle the enclave issue which is being dragged for over six decades now, reports Kolkata-based daily Anandabazaar Patrika on Wednesday.

However, the state government wants the Indian central government to take up the issue of developing the land area that will be added to West Bengal, in terms of administration and infrastructure, the report said.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee might announce the new stand of her government at a rally in Cooch Behar on Thursday. The venue of the chief minister's rally is very close to the Bangladeshi enclave, which suggests that the reports about her making a big announcement tomorrow could be true. Banerjee might hasten the procedure of rehabilitating the enclave dwellers on Wednesday, according to the report.

> (Contd. on page-11)

## Failure to handle under-frequency led to nationwide blackout: Nasrul Hamid

DHAKA : As a follow-up of the last November 1 nationwide blackout, Power Division on Wednesday placed a good number of short-, medium- and long-term recommendations to check further interruption in the national power grid system, reports UNB.

The recommendations include upgrading the current grid transmission system from manual to automatic and synchronising the timing watches at grid substations and power plants with the global positioning system (GPS), and also introducing ICT based communication system. A total of 32 recommendations have been placed of which 22 are short-term and 22 are medium- and long-term.

However, the inquiry committee,

which prepared the recommendations after a wide and thorough investigation about the November 1 grid failure incident, still could not reach any conclusion as exactly why and from which point the technical glitch generated.

Initially, the Power Division officials had blamed a technical fault and under-frequency symptom that developed in the Indian part of the cross-border electricity transmission lines for the nationwide grid failure.

> (Contd. on page-11)



TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman addressing a press conference at National Press Club on Wednesday on the occasion of the global release of CPI. Photo: Banglar Chokh.

## Political plots to be faced politically : BNP

DHAKA : Accusing the government of conspiring to put top BNP leaders in the dock in false cases aiming to cement its illegal power, BNP senior leader Abdullah Al Noman on Wednesday said their party will face the political plots politically on the streets, reports UNB.

"Sheikh Hasina is trying to annihilate the nationalist forces by trying Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman in false cases to perpetuate their illegal power. It's a political conspiracy, and we'll face it politically on the streets," he said.

The BNP leader was addressing a human chain programme in front of the Jatiya Press Club arranged by Desh Bachao Manush Bachao Andolan demanding the withdrawal of 'false and conspiratorial cases' against BNP chief Khaleda Zia and its senior vice chairman Tarique Rahman.

Noman, a BNP vice chairman, said the government has buried democracy by snatching people's all basic rights.

He alleged that the government is also planning to hold another staged-election by trying BNP senior leaders and landing them in jails so that they cannot join the polls.

The BNP leader said the country's people have started getting united against the government's repressive acts, killings and enforced disappearances. "The day is not far away, when people will put up a strong resistance against the current government and foil its all evil designs."

## Bangladesh 14th most corrupt country

### TIB urged govt to take effective measure to prevent corruption

#### STAFF REPORTER

The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2014, published on Wednesday has notified that Bangladesh is the 14th most corrupt country. The index published by the anti-corruption group covered an area of 12 countries and regions.

According to the published report Bangladesh has scored 25 points in a scale of 0-100 and has been ranked 145th from the top and 14th from the bottom.

The ranking from the bottom is worse than that in 2013, whereas the ranking from the top is lower this year compared to that of the previous year. On the other hand the global average of Bangladesh is much lower than that of 43 in both rank and score amongst the 7 South Asian Countries.

In 2013 Bangladesh seven positions in the ranking of 177 countries to the 136th position whereas their benchmark score was 27. Stating about the report TIB included that the index was prepared based on the information collected and analyzed, between February 2011 till August of 2014.

Speaking at the press conference on this matter TIB Executive Director Dr.

Iftekharuzzaman said, 'the rise of corruption in the country is quite alarming. In order to control this government needs to take stern actions soon.

He added Bangladesh is a signatory country to the UN Convention against Corruption. So it should observe the Anti Corruption Day officially to intensify the anti-corruption campaign in order to root out the problem from the society. This will send the message of its anti corruption stance to the people.'

To be added the watchdog group found serious problems with anti-corruption efforts in Bangladesh, India, Maldives Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Speaking on this matter the group's regional director for Asia Pacific Srirak Plipat said, 'South Asia now is the worst region in the world when it comes to corruption based on our studies.'

The watchdogs then urged the governments of the six countries to strengthen their anti corruption agencies and judiciary by ensuring that appointments, transfers and removal of the heads of the agencies are conducted independently.

> (Contd. on page-11)

## Deal for rice export to Sri Lanka signed

DHAKA : Bangladesh today signed a deal with Sri Lanka to export 25,000 metric tons of rice, reports BSS.

Sarwar Khan, director general of the directorate of food, and Nalin Fernando, chairman of Lanka Sathosa Ltd, put pen on the agreement paper on behalf of the respective governments.

Food minister Advocate Qamrul Islam, food secretary Mushfeka Ikfat and AMPMB Atapattu, director general of department of development finance under the ministry of finance and planning of Sri Lanka, witnessed the signing ceremony at the secretariat.

Bangladesh exports the rice to the South Asian nation at US\$ 450 per ton. Sri Lanka in August this year proposed to import rice from Bangladesh on Cost Insurance Freight (CIF) term.

Speaking on the occasion, Food Minister said the country has now a stock of nearly 12.5 lakh metric tons of rice in godown, nearly 2.5 lakh tons more compared to the same period of last year. He said Bangladesh is prepared to export nearly 1 lakh metric ton of rice.



Abdul Jabbar

## War crimes accused Jabbar awaits verdict

DHAKA : Closing the summing-up arguments on factual and law points from both sides, the International Crimes Tribunal-1 on Wednesday kept its verdict pending to be delivered any day on the war crimes case against former Jatiya Party MP Engineer Abdul Jabbar of Mathbaria, Pirojpur, now on the run, reports UNB.

The three-member tribunal, headed by Justice M Enayetur Rahim, fixed the date after prosecutors -- Zahid Imam and Tapas K Baul -- rebutted the state defence arguments.

Before closing the hearings, the tribunal asked the prosecution whether there is any scope of mitigating punishment instead of capital punishment as they claim in the case.

## Cricket world bids tearful goodbye to Phillip Hughes

#### SPORTS DESK

Cricketing luminaries bid an emotional farewell to Phillip Hughes at a funeral service held in his home town Wednesday, as Australia stopped to remember the popular batsman whose death from a freak injury sent shockwaves through the sport.

A lone cricket bat rested against the coffin at a packed service in his former high school hall in Macksville on the New South Wales coast in front of his heartbroken parents and friends and a shattered Australian Test team.

Hughes, who had played 26 Tests and was on the cusp of a recall, died from bleeding on the brain last Thursday after being hit on the base of the skull by a rising ball at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

His tragic death stunned Australia, where cricket is considered the national game, and prompted a rescheduling of the upcoming India Test series, while fans around the world placed cricket bats outside their front doors as a mark of respect.

Australia's Captain Michael Clarke spoke of the remarkable outpouring of grief that has come from around the world in the wake of Hughes' death, and openly wondered if it was a tangible example of the much-mentioned "spirit of cricket". He said Hughes' spirit was now "part of our game forever" and "will act as a custodian of the sport we all love", and urged cricketers to "play on".

Among many indelible images and words, that of thousands following Hughes through the heart of Macksville will not be forgotten in a hurry. The Hughes family, Clarke, his wife Kylie, and the Australian Test team walked together with locals, visitors, administrators and Australia's prime minister Tony Abbott. Winding through Wallace Street, they made for a rare sight of shared grief but also collective memory of Hughes' life. Brian Lara, who had been in Australia, was representing the West Indies Cricket Board which noted

> (Contd. on page-11)



## Namaz Timings

### Today

	Start	Jamaat
Fajr	05:08 AM	05:45 AM
Zohr	11:52 PM	01:15 PM
Asr	03:35 PM	04:15 PM
Magrib	05:14 PM	05:17 PM
Esha	06:37 PM	07:30 PM

Tahajjud After midnight

Source: Islamic Foundation

SUNSET : 05:11 PM  
SUNRISE : 06:26 AM



A lone cricket bat rested against the coffin at a packed service in Phil Hughes' former high school hall in Macksville on the New South Wales coast in front of his heartbroken parents and friends and a shattered Australian Test team. Photo : Internet





DHAKA : A modern Air Quality Research and Monitoring Centre (AQRMC) has been established at the centre for Advanced Research in Sciences (CARS) of Dhaka University, reports UNB.

The inaugural ceremony was held on Wednesday at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of the university. It was followed by an international seminar titled "Air Quality and Its Consequences: Global Perspective" at the same venue.

Presided over by the Pro-Vice chancellor (Administration) of DU and Sub-Project Manager (CP-2196) Prof Dr Shahid Akhtar Hossain the inaugural ceremony of the AQRMC and the international seminar was addressed by Prof Dr AK Azad Chowdhury, Chairman of University Grants Commission

(UGC) as the chief guest while Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Senior Operations Officer of World Bank, Prof Dr Thorsten Benter of Wuppertal University, Germany and Dr Ferdinand von Weyhe, Charge D Affairs of Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dhaka addressed the function as special guests. Director of CARS of DU Prof DrAltaff Hussain thanks gave of vote.

The AQRMSC has been set up with the support from Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) of the UGC of Bangladesh funded by World Bank and Bangladesh Government under the sub-project, "Establishing an Air Quality Monitoring Centre (CP-2196)", in collaboration with Wuppertal University, Germany.

DHAKA : Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad and Executive Chairperson of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury today said the CPA's prime objective is to promote inclusive democracy, reports UNB.

"The CPA's main object is to promote inclusive democracy with practicing and enhancing and to ensure gender equality," she at a 'Meet the Press' programme of

Parliament Journalists Association (PJA) at Member's Club of the Jatiya Sangsad. Chaired by President of PJA Debashish Chakraborty Uttam, the function was also addressed, among others, by Deputy Speaker M Fazle Rabbi Miah, founder president of PJA M Shafiqul Islam and general secretary Rezaul Haque Raza. Dr Shirin expressed her hope to improve Bangladesh Parliament to the international level by practicing inclusive democracy. "The January 5 general election was held following the constitutional procedure and all the parliamentarians won the polls through legal procedure," she said.

SATKHIRA : Police on Wednesday arrested a local leader of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in connection with the attack on convoy of the then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina in Kolaroa upazila on August 30, 2002, reports UNB.

The arrestee was identified as Rabiul Islam, joint secretary of Kolaroa upazila unit BNP and also chairman of Jugekhal union parishad.

Masud Karim, officer-in-charge of Kolaroa Police Station, said Chief Judicial Magistrate Nitai Chandrara Saha of Satkha District Court on October 15, 2014 ordered to record the case in connection with the attack.

After the case was recorded, police arrested Rabiul from his house at Jugekhali village in the upazila at about 9:30am on Wednesday.

On August 30 in 2002, Sheikh Hasina, the then opposition leader, had gone to the district to visit a raped housewife.

On the way, BNP leaders and activists allegedly attacked her convoy allegedly on the instruction of the then lawmaker Habibul Islam Habib in Kolaroa.

The attackers fired gunshots to kill Hasina but she survived the assassination attempt while others accompanying her sustained injuries.

Several journalists were also assaulted during the incident.

Failing to lodge a case with the local police station, freedom fighter commander and AL leader Moslem Uddin filed a case with Sakhira magistrate court against 27 BNP men in connection with the gun attack.

COX'S BAZAR : Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in two separate drives recovered 30,000 pieces of Yaba tablet and arrested one person in this connection from Baraitali of Teknaf upazila on Tuesday night and early Wednesday, reports UNB.

Commanding officer of BGB Battalion 42 Lt Col Abu Zar Al Zahid said they had secret information that a man along with a consignment of Yaba tablets was coming to Bangladesh from Myanmar through the Naf River, a team of BGB-42 conducted a drive in Baraitali ghat near the river around 11:30 on Tuesday.

Later, the BGB team recovered 10,000 pieces of Yaba tablet from the area in an abandoned condition.

However, the smugglers managed to flee the scene sensing the presence of BGB.

In an another drive, the same team of BGB arrested a man, Mohammad Nur, 35, from Baraitali village along with 20,000 pieces of Yaba tablet around 4.00am on Wednesday. Lt Col Abu Zar Al Zahid added.

DHAKA : Describing media people as the vehicles of change, speakers at a discussion here on Wednesday said all need to work together to spread the message for the young girls that get educated first instead of getting married early to help bring an end to child, early and forced marriages (CEFM) in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The speakers laid emphasis on thorough investigation at the grassroots level and come up

has some challenges, too. "Child, early and forced marriages are among the many challenges. The existing law is very old and it has some weaknesses, too."

She said the new law about the child marriage prevention will be finalised considering all the facts and expressed her hope that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will help take the right decision.

"I'm happy to see there has been long debate much ahead

issue with evidence and through proper investigation. "It's a social norm, it needs social revolution. It's one of the issues that that can't be changed overnight."

She also said the media has a strong role to play. "You (media) have a strong voice that reaches everywhere where we as a development partners can't reach. You can influence in a way to bring about changes in society and give girls a new way of living."

Appreciating the overall scenario, Farida Yasmin said awareness among all is very important apart from taking collective move. She said the media has a strong role to play to help country come out from the practice of child, early and forced marriages.

Christiane Hunter said journalists can talk to girls, their mothers and guardians and try to know their dreams. "Help...materialise their dreams," she said.

DHAKA : A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Bangladesh Air Force and Bangladesh Open University (BOU) to co-ordinate and conduct Higher Secondary Education programme of airmen at Air Headquarters on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Captain Kazi Abdul Moyeen, Director of Education Directorate of Bangladesh Air Force Group and Professor Dr. Abul Hossain, Registrar of the University signed the MoU on behalf of their respective sides.

Besides human resource development, this MoU will be considered as a milestone in the modernization of BAF, said an ISPR release.

Under the MoU, Bangladesh Open University will primarily open three study centres at different bases of Bangladesh Air Force in Dhaka, Chittagong and Jessore and its number will be increased gradually considering necessity.

Higher Secondary Education of airmen will be regulated by the Education programme of Bangladesh Open University through these study centres.

Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Admin) Air Vice Marshal Mashihuzzaman Serniabat and Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Open University Professor Dr. M A Mannan addressed on the occasion.

High officials of Bangladesh Air Force and Bangladesh Open University were present on the occasion.



## Udayan Residential School & College

Residential/Non-Residential  
13B/2B Babor Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207  
Phone # 01725-849376, 01729-990445


Teachers Wanted

	Assistant teachers	Academic qualification
♦	Bengali, Science, Math, Religion (Islam), English, Social Science	Graduate with B. Ed/post Graduate/4 years Honors
♦	Computer Operator, Residential Teacher	Typing expert at Bengali & English with H.S.c

Application must write within 25-12-2014 in the fixed form of the institute.

Principal

Admission Going on : Play to Nine



## Dhaka Palli Bidyut Samity-1

### Palashbari, Savar, Dhaka.

# Invitation for Tender

01. Procuring Entity Name	Senior General Manager, Dhaka Palli Bidyut Samity-1 Palashbari, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh		
02. Procuring Entity Address	Dhaka		
03. Procurement lot	Electrical and Substation Materials		
04. Procurement Ref. No.	Memo No. Dhaka-PBS-1/1120/04422 Date: 02/12/2014		
05. Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTB)		
06. Budget and Source of Funds	PBS-1 Own Fund		
07. Tender Package No.	1. G.E.DHKPBS-1/USM/11-14-15 DHKPBS-1/USM/11-14-15 2. G.E.DHKPBS-1/USM/11-14-15 DHKPBS-1/USM/11-14-15		
08. Tender Publication Date	04/12/2014		
09. Tender last selling date	07/12/2014 (Till closing Office Time)		
	Date	Time	
10. Tender Closing Date & Time	07/12/2014	Time: 12:00 Noon Bangladesh Standard Time (Time: 12:00 PM GST)	
11. Tender Opening Date & Time	07/12/2014	Time: 12:00 PM GST	
12. Name & Address of the District	Address		
13. Selling Tender Document	1) Senior General Manager, Dhaka Palli Bidyut Samity-1 Palashbari, Savar, Dhaka & 2) Director, Public Management Organization (DPO), Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1225, Bangladesh		
14. Recovery of Tender Document	BREL Director General, Sadiq Jasin Ahmed, Mirpur-2, Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board 1st Floor, Room-12, Dhaka-1225		
15. Opening of Tender Document	BREL Director General, Sadiq Jasin Ahmed, Mirpur-2, Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, 1st Floor, Room-12, Dhaka-1225		
16. Eligibility of Tenderer	Bangladesh Manufacturer/Supplier		
17. Price of Tender Document	T: 1000.00		
18. Unit Description of Goods			
Tender Package No.	Sub-Package No.	For the material of	Tender security Amount (TK)
14-15 G.E.DHKPBS-1/USM/01	01 G.E.DHKPBS-1/USM/01	Copperwire	15,00,000.00
14-15 G.E.DHKPBS-1/USM/02	02 G.E.DHKPBS-1/USM/02	Copperwire	15,00,000.00
14-15 G.E.DHKPBS-1/USM/03	03 G.E.DHKPBS-1/USM/03	33 kV Under Ground Cable & Accessories	20,00,000.00
19. Regarding Tender Document	The Tender Document may be purchased by the interested tenderers on the submission of a written application to the addressee as mentioned in item 13.10.1 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee TK. 1000. The method of payment will be by Pay Order/draft in favor of Senior General Manager, Dhaka PBS-1. The tender will be sent by courier or mail. One Tender Document cannot be used for submission of tender process (a) by more than one tenderer.		
20. Mode of Payment	Payment will be made by Dhaka PBS-1 directly to the supplier in Bangladesh Bank.		
21. Delivery Period	Delivery period shall begin from the date of signing of contract letter and 25% pay for the saving date of fulfillment of work (N/A) whichever is earlier.		
22. Special Instructions	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without showing any reason.		

বিনয় বানহাভে সাদাশী হোম

অন্যকে বাধ্যতায় সংযোগ লিখ।

(Senior General Manager,  
Dhaka Palli Bidyut Samity-1  
Date: 02/12/2014)

[illegible]



**Notes:**

1. The share transfer book will remain closed from 15/12/2014 to 30/12/2014 (Both days inclusive)
2. Shareholders whose name will appear in the share register of the company on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014 shall qualify to receive the dividend.
3. All shareholders are requested to reconcile their name, address, and folio number by showing their share certificate to the company (by person or by the following e-mail: [alifindustries95@gmail.com](mailto:alifindustries95@gmail.com) within 30 days from the date of AGM to facilitate disbursement of dividend.)
4. A Member eligible to attend at the AGM may appoint a proxy to attend on his/her behalf. The proxy form must be affixed with requisite revenue stamp and submitted to the Registered Office of the Company no later than 48 (Forty eight) hours before the time fixed for the Annual General Meeting (AGM)
5. Shareholders and Proxies are requested to record their entry in time.
6. *No food or gift will be served in tile meeting in compliance of Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission notification # SEC/SRMI/2000-953/1950 dated 24/10/2000 and subsequent circular # SEC/CMRRDC/2009-193/154 dated October 24,2013*





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Thursday, December 4, 2014

## Implementing longer term plans for water supply

A recent newspaper photograph showed how thousands of gallons of water spew out uselessly from roadside taps as their control valves have been stolen by petty thieves. Surely, such thievery can be stopped from proper vigilance. But did anyone ever try ? Very probably not.

Rain harvesting or catching the rainfall during the wet months in reservoirs and then using the same in the drier months, should be practiced. Many modern cities round the world get a big share of their waters for daily use in this manner. But this is yet to happen in Dhaka.

Already, fresh water supply for over 15 million residents of Dhaka city is posing as a serious problem. The demand for water in the city is projected to rise to almost double at 5 billion liters per day from the consequences of rapid migration of people to it by 2020. Therefore, the existing plans for increasing water supply by WASA need to be implemented in time .

A recent media report --sometime ago-- stated that WASA aims to reduce its dependence on underground water from the present 87 per cent to 50 per cent in the next five years. This is for the obvious reasons of the risks involved in reckless lifting of underground water causing dangerous land subsidence and the fast falling level of underground water.

But all rivers or sources of surface water flowing near Dhaka are found too contaminated by pollution. Therefore, waters from rivers which have relatively fresher waters such as Meghna and Brahmaputra, must be treated and then piped to Dhaka. This is an imperative.

Funds would be required for the purpose and the same may be sought from donor organizations like the Asian Development Bank (ADB). It was reported that the ADB considered a grant of some \$ 250 million for ensuring the adequate supply of safe water round-the-clock in Dhaka city. Government needs to be in closer communication with ADB to be able to line up the finances for these projects at the earliest.

Sea water can be made into freshwater. The process is called desalination, and it is being used more and more around the world to provide people with needed freshwater.

Time is ripe also to start considering the establishment of desalination plants in Bangladesh as our rivers are experiencing leaner and more polluted flows and it is proving to be too dangerous to encourage free style lifting of underground water. Sooner rather than later Bangladesh has to look to the ocean to get large scale supply of water after desalination. The faster works start in this direction, the better for the water security of the country even in the short term. Bangladesh should start knocking at the doors of the World Bank and other donors to line up funds for the early establishment of such desalination plants.

## What does French vote really mean for Palestine?

Alain Gresh

To really make a difference, France must go beyond rhetorical statements.

On November 29, the French parliament convened to discuss a motion on the recognition of the State of Palestine by France. On December 2, it voted "yes" with 339 to 151 votes in favour of a symbolic motion to recognise Palestine as a state.

To understand the meaning of such a move, we must refer to the speech made to members of parliament by Foreign Affairs Minister Laurent Fabius: "Far from being a semantic quarrel, the current motion is not an injunction but an invitation addressed by the government. So, there is no ambiguity over the issue of recognising the State of Palestine. The Parliament has the powers to decide, and it will do so, but under our Constitution, the executive - and only the executive - is judge of the political expediency."

To explain his thoughts, Fabius added: "Alone, or with the United States' assistance, both parties always managed to negotiate successfully, however, they failed to come to an agreement. Particularly for domestic political reasons, the two sides failed to reach the final concessions imposed by signing a compromise. Therefore, we need to re-evaluate this method. We need to engage with both parties. Some suggest pressure from the international community will help the two sides reach the indispensable final consensus and take the final step that will lead to peace."

Fabius suggested an international conference to be held and a two-year time frame to be set, "because in the absence of a time frame, how could we be sure this will not be just another process with no real prospect of success?"

French intentions: This discussion clarifies the intentions of French officials. If negotiations fail in two years, Paris will not recognise the State of Palestine. What the minister did not say, however, is why and how the two-year time frame would change the situation.

It is worth mentioning here that the Oslo agreements set 1999 as the deadline for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. The 2003 Roadmap sponsored by the Quartet also announced 2005 as the end of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. The Annapolis summit in 2007, convened by US President George W. Bush, called for a Palestinian state by 2007 and in 2010, US President Barack Obama called for the creation of a Palestinian state by 2011.

Another element of Fabius' speech is also worth highlighting. He argues that the cause of failure of the negotiations would come from the inability of the "two parties" to come to a consensus. Thus, it is not Israel that, for decades, has violated international law, expanded settlements, accentuated the Judaisation of Jerusalem and maintained Gaza's blockade. Consequently, according to Fabius, both parties should be held responsible.

The recognition of the State of Palestine by France will constitute a step forward. In fact, the debate should be contextualised. It is about a solidarity movement with Palestine that has expanded after the Israeli aggression against Gaza last summer. Sweden was the first country in the European Union to recognise the State of Palestine (as well as some other countries, including the former Eastern bloc countries, before joining EU). The British Parliament and the Spanish Congress also voted for the motion. As for the European Parliament, it decided, under Israeli pressure, to postpone the vote that should have taken place on November 27, for several weeks.

**Alain Gresh is deputy director of Le Monde Diplomatique and a specialist on the Middle East. This article was written in French by Alain Gresh and translated into English by Ali Saad. Source: Al-Jazeera**

# Does Tehran really need a nuclear bomb?

ABDULATEEF AL-MULHIM

The Iranian nuclear program was planned and initiated during the Cold War era. It matured as a program during the 1960s through European companies with the help of the United States, in the name of the idea called "Atoms for peace." To this day, I still wonder how could one achieve peace by using nuclear weapons.

The nuclear program in Iran went as planned. It is true that Iran is a huge country with a fast-growing population and has all the right to plan for its future particularly when it comes to addressing its growing energy needs. But why does it need a nuclear bomb?

What if Iran acquires nuclear bomb(s)? Will it use it or simply keep it as a trophy at a time when most, if not all, nuclear powers are working meticulously to find solutions to do away with their nuclear arsenals.

The erstwhile Iranian Empire and later on the Islamic Republic of Iran has the most controversial nuclear program in the world. Since its inception, the Iranian nuclear program has experienced many ups and downs.

Observers may recall that when Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant was

almost nearing completion, the 1979 revolution erupted and reports emerged claiming that Ayatollah Khomeini deemed making destructive weapons un-Islamic. Besides, it is not cheap to build nuclear reactors. Then the Iraq-Iran war broke out and the Iraqis attacked the main nuclear facilities in Bushehr.

Iran was forced to use paint sealant to cover the main dome and things came to a standstill. The most notable thing about the Bushehr plant is that it has been built using western technologies, which is far more complicated and advanced than the Soviet-era facilities. After the Iraq-Iran war, which ended in August 1988, Iran was left with no friends in the West and it had to turn to the cash-starved Russia and the former Soviet-bloc countries. The Iranians tried to contact countries like Spain and Argentina but discussions never materialized.

When the Iranians decided to restart their nuclear program, they declared to the world that they were a country with about 70 million people and they simply needed more energy resources because oil and gas production were being

decreased by 10 percent each year due to the old or obsolete oil production infrastructure and facilities. The dilapidated condition of the oil production infrastructure was a result of the 8-year war with Iraq and the western boycott of Iran. However, due to the loopholes in the international markets, Iran managed to increase its pace in getting the nuclear program back on track. It was obvious that Iran would not quit its quest for attaining nuclear capabilities. They were somehow able to trick the IAEA inspectors. No one knows for sure how far Iran is from becoming a nuclear power. But the question remains: What will Iran do with its nuclear bomb? Is it to dominate the region or is it an attempt to restore past glories?

It is true that the main industrial countries build nuclear facilities to produce more electrical power to run their industrial machines and as a deterrent but at the end of the day, those industrial countries want to boost their economies and raise the standards of living of their people. It is ironic to see clearly that Iran possesses more capabilities and assets than many of

today's industrial countries. Iran has one of the richest histories and culture in the world, a history that goes back to thousands of years. Iran produces the best and finest saffron, which is more expensive than gold and has the most beautiful and expensive rugs in the world. Persian pistachio and caviar can produce and generate more money for Iran's suffering economy if utilized in better ways. The Iranians are very hard working people and their land with its variety of topographies from high mountains to the beaches can be a tourist attraction for many in the area. It is sad to see all the assets and money being wasted on building nuclear facilities, which is only causing harm to the Iranians. It is important to focus on building Iranian economy to raise the standard of living of Iranians. An Iranian nuclear bomb may raise the moral of many Iranians, but it is high standard of living that can bring the hundreds of thousands of Iranian brains back from the West. Iran might have the capabilities to build a nuclear bomb but the question remains ...then what?

**Source: Arab News**

# Vladimir Putin's visit can oil India-Russia ties

GULSHAN SACHDEVA

Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit India in December for the 15th annual India-Russia Summit. This will be his 11th summit with the Indian leadership since he signed the strategic partnership with Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2000. Between 2008 and 2011, Russia was represented by Dmitry Medvedev. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a brief interaction with Putin during the sixth BRICS summit in July. He described that "even a child in India, if asked to say who is India's best friend, will reply it is Russia because Russia has been with India in times of crisis." As chief minister of Gujarat, Modi had signed a protocol of cooperation between the state and the Astrakhan region of Russia in 2001. There are serious possibilities of cooperation due to renewed focus on the international North South Trade Corridor, India's possible entry into the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, increasing linkages with the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia as well as the possibilities of bringing Russian hydrocarbons by the land route to India. Still, the immediate task

would be to involve Russia seriously in the 'Make in India' initiative, particularly in defence and infrastructure. Besides, some practical steps are needed in trade and commerce, which has been the weakest link in bilateral ties since the early 1990s. During earlier summits, the trade turnover targets set were \$10 billion by 2010 and \$15 billion by 2015. We are nowhere close to achieving these figures. Immediate action would be needed to resolve problem areas known for years, viz the information gap and visa problems faced by Indian companies. Generally, India and Russia share excellent political relations. As a result, the strategic partnership was elevated to 'special and privileged strategic partnership' in 2010. In the 14 summits since 2000, the two have signed 128 agreements/ memorandums of understandings/declarations in the areas of military and technical cooperation, space, nuclear energy, hydrocarbons, trade and economics, terrorism, education and culture. As some of these declarations remained on paper, now the focus should be on

deliverables with clear timelines.

Russia has a clear comparative advantage in the arms industry, hydrocarbons and nuclear energy. And India has provided good business in all these areas. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI's) arms transfer database, at 1990 constant prices, India imported weapons worth about \$32 billion from Russia between 1992 and 2013. This was 73% of total arms imports by India during this period. Since 2007, India is the largest export market of Russian weapons. In a few areas, military technical cooperation has already evolved and moved towards joint research and production. Notable examples include the BrahMos missile, fifth generation fighter aircraft and multi-transport aircraft. The SU-30 aircraft and T-90 tanks are also produced in India under licence. With changing production and procurement dynamics of the Indian arms industry, there are indications that Russia is eager to participate further through 'Make in India'. Indian companies have invested

about \$6.5 billion in Russia, mainly in the energy sector in Sakhalin 1 and Imperial Energy. Russian company Rosneft recently offered ONGC stakes in two Siberian oilfields. The real challenge, however, is to attract Russian companies to India. So far, they have invested only about \$1 billion in India.

As a result of the Ukrainian crisis, Russia is facing serious difficulties, including economic sanctions, with the West. Both Europe and Russia are trying to diversify their energy dependence on each other. This is the right time to forge some serious energy ties with Russia. There are reports indicating a vision document being prepared outlining a gas pipeline, an oil pipeline and a swap mechanism deal in which Russia may facilitate Indian oil payments to Iran. These initiatives may prove a game changer in India-Russia ties.

**The author is chairperson, Centre for European Studies, JNU, and currently holds the ICCR Chair on Contemporary India at the University of Leuven, Belgium.**

# Should you ever criticise teenagers for what they wear?

HUGH MUIR, JINAN YOUNIS, FLIC EVERETT, ANOUCHKA GROSE AND FRANKLYN ADDO

Does Elizabeth Lauten - the Congressional PR spinner who lost her job for questioning the dress sense of President Obama's daughters - have children? Those of us who have a normal relationship with teenage offspring long ago gave up commenting on what they choose to wear. Once you reach a certain age, your appreciation of what is appropriate for a teenage girl dwindles to almost nothing. Your ability to impose your will goes with it. This also applies to presidents. Complain if you will about the Uggs boots, the tights revealing all contours, the low tops, the short shorts, the improbable heels. All a waste of breath. I once joined a shopping trip in pursuit of some of this stuff. In Hollister, we wandered around in the dark for a few minutes. I thought there had been a power cut. They said it was a fashionable half-light. Presumably to obscure the prices.

This is no doubt one of those things parents worry about too much. Without letting you know they know, they do in fact know when the eyelash extensions should stay in the box and a sensible skirt is called for. They might not appear to be absorbing instructions. That's because they are watching you instead. Frankly, my concern is less will they embarrass me than might I, by dressing like a hobo embarrass them. Once, arriving after a gym session to collect my daughter from a supermarket, I saw her friend dig her in the ribs. What did she say, I asked her later. "She wanted to know why that tramp was waving at us." In our society women's bodies are a battleground. The clothes that women wear shape our identity, yet these same clothes can be deeply

restrictive. We're taught first to hate our bodies, to cover them or reveal them according to what is considered acceptable. Then we're told that we're not there quite yet, and that the clothes we wear are crucial to making us the "perfect" women the world wants us to be. This policing of women's bodies starts early, and when young women are told repeatedly that their attire is linked to their worth, they fall prey to the unrelenting standards of capitalist patriarchy in which they are made to feel as though their appearance is the most important aspect of them as women.

For women of colour in particular, it is important not to look at this in isolation. Black women's bodies have been and continue to be policed more than others, even within feminist spaces. The link that society makes between what black women choose to wear and their sexuality is a manifestation of the deep-rooted racism that is still prevalent today. We're taught to fear black women who take ownership of their bodies, and the clothes that they wear are under much greater scrutiny as a result.

The clothes that women wear should never be criticised, because such scrutiny is not restricted to our clothes: it's of our identities, our sense of self-worth, and our place in this society.

We, as young women, are reclaiming our bodies for ourselves, and with it, the clothes that we put on them. It's difficult to do so when we're bombarded with images telling us we'll never be perfect, but the length of our skirts or our decision to wear a one-piece bright gold spandex jumpsuit are powerful statements about our right to take up space in this world and to use our clothes to

show our identity, not yours.

Ever since the Greek poet Hesiod complained that "youth are reckless beyond words" in the eighth century BC, teenagers have continued to dress in a way that alarms and infuriates older generations, whether it's the frivolous use of curling irons for a church service or a ripped My Chemical Romance T-shirt for a wedding ("show some bloody respect!"), the adolescent take on a suitable occasion outfit is still more likely to resemble Courtney Love on a five-day bender.

When the brilliantly normal Sasha and Malia Obama rocked up at the White House "turkey pardoning", they looked exactly as they are: fed-up teenagers dragged to a family event, channelling a bit of safe rebellion via a rolled up waistband. Teenagers need to experiment with stupid trends, join their peers in sporting tattered neon wristbands or dropped crotch monkey jeans, and traumatised parents with slapped-on clown makeup. If they don't, how will they ever learn what suits them, or have hilariously embarrassing photos to look back on?

As a result, I never tried to control what my teenage stepchildren wore outside school, believing it to be entirely their right to express themselves as they wished - except for once.

When my stepdaughter was 13, she was "phonejacked" (as they quaintly called it back in 2002), and was required to appear in court. On the day, she came downstairs wearing more black eyeliner than Alice Cooper, a crop top and a pair of tracksuit bottoms. Sent back to change, she furiously shouted: "I'll be the least fashionable person in court!" Teenagers don't do "appropriate"

and nor should they. That's for later in life - when the rebellious rage has dimmed, and Whistles exerts a greater pull than Claire's Accessories.

As if being a teenage girl isn't bad enough - constantly feeling awkward, out of your depth, under scrutiny, living in fear of the unnerving gaze of your parents, middle-aged men, middle-aged women and, worst of all, your friends - it's hard to imagine how bad it would be if you factored in the added horror of your father being the president of the United States. No matter how assiduously you obey the Gap's injunction to "dress normal", you may still find yourself accused of disrespecting the nation and looking like a bar-frequenting floozie. Poor Sasha and Malia!

Luckily they have cool parents. (At least most of the time - no one's cool while they're pardoning a turkey.) Michelle and Barack don't force them to dress like little political zombie children, but let them appear in public in clumpy shoes and sloppy cardigans, looking bored and embarrassed. This is without doubt the correct way to look while taking part in a pathetic "tradition" instigated by Republicans in the 1980s. Michelle and Barack are perhaps human enough to understand this - and may even secretly enjoy the fact that their children feel able to sneer. Telling teenagers how to dress is at least a proper tradition with a long history. (At minimum, 60 years long, although the dress and habits of "the young" come in for enough comment in 19th-century novels.) The problem is that it generally gets you absolutely nowhere.

**Source: the Guardian**



## DoE fines 11 factories Tk 1.47 crore for polluting environment

DHAKA : The Department of Environment (DoE) has fined 11 factories of Chittagong districts a total of Tk 1.47 crore for polluting environment by releasing untreated waste into water bodies, reports UNB.

The department fined the 11 factories following hearings held at DoE headquarters in the capital this week, DoE Director (Monitoring and Enforcement) Md Alamgir told UNB on Tuesday.

The Director fined seven factories Tk 66 lakh on Sunday and four other factories Tk 81 lakh on Monday.

The factories include six dyeing factories, two paper mills, two food manufacturers and a steel factory.

Of them, seven factories were fined

for dumping untreated waste into Karnaphuli River stopping Effluent Treatment Plants (ETP), two food manufacturers for releasing untreated waste into Bay of Bengal using flawed ETPs, one factory for running without clearance of the Department and not setting ETP, and the remaining one factory for polluting air using flawed dust extraction system.

The 11 factories are Chittagong Asian Paper Mills Ltd at Nandirhat in Hathazari (Tk 8 lakh fine), Super Knitting and Dyeing Mills Ltd at Bayezid Bostami Road (Tk 13 lakh), MA Rahman Dyeing Industries Ltd at Jalalabad (Tk five lakh), Apex Foods Ltd at Sagorika Road (Tk 15 lakh), Sea Mark (BD) Ltd at Gahria Road (Tk five

lakh), Make Paper and Board Mills Ltd at Oxygen intersection in Bayezid Bostami road (Tk five lakh), Bangladesh Steel Re-rolling Mills Ltd (Tk 15 lakh) at Nasirabad, Denim Plus (BD) Ltd at Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) (Tk 36 lakh), Mithun Mithun Knitting and Dyeing Ltd at CEPZ, Jeans Express Ltd at Sagorika Road (Tk 11 lakh) and Imam Button Industries Ltd at Pahartoli (Tk 10 lakh).

Earlier, a team of the DoE headquarters, led by its director Md Alamgir conducted a drive against the seven factories in the port city of Chittagong on November 18 and four dyeing factories on November 19 and summoned the factory owners or representatives for hearing



## New study links carbon emissions and climate warming



Research has identified, for the first time, how global warming is related to the amount of carbon emitted.

A team of researchers from the universities of Southampton, Bristol and Liverpool have derived the first theoretical equation to demonstrate that global warming is a direct result of the build-up of carbon emissions since the late 1800s when human-made carbon emissions began. The results are in accord with previous data from climate models.

The theoretical equation reveals the complex relationship between carbon dioxide levels and the ocean system. Burning fossil fuels increases

atmospheric carbon dioxide levels leading to global warming and the greenhouse effect, which is partly offset by the oceans taking in both heat and carbon.

The results show every million-million tonnes of carbon emitted will generate one degree Celsius of global warming. They also show that the build-up of carbon emitted over the last 200 years will then last for many centuries to millennia, even if carbon emissions are subsequently phased out.

The results also reveal that surface warming is related to the total amount of carbon emitted from fossil fuels, with little change over time as

ocean carbon and changes in heat uptake almost cancel each other out.

Dr Phil Goodwin, from Ocean and Earth Science at the University of Southampton, said: "Our analysis highlights the nearly irreversible nature of carbon emissions for global warming. Once carbon has been emitted into the atmosphere the warming effect will last many centuries, even after much of the carbon has been absorbed by the ocean."

"We cannot wait until after significant anthropogenic warming has occurred to reduce carbon emissions and hope the climate goes back to normal by itself, it won't.

## What Drives the Global Warming Debate?

Scientists have presented the most comprehensive evidence to date that climate extremes such as droughts and record temperatures are failing to change people's minds about global warming.

Instead, political orientation is the most influential factor in shaping perceptions about climate change, both in the short-term and long-term, said Sandra Marquart-Pyatt, a Michigan State University sociologist and lead investigator on the study.

"The idea that shifting climate patterns are influencing perceptions in the United States - we didn't find that," said Marquart-Pyatt, associate professor of sociology. "Our results show that politics has the most important effect on perceptions of climate change."

The researchers ran more than 100 computer models integrating just over a decade of Gallup survey responses on climate-change perceptions with 50 years of regional climate data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The 12-page study, which appears in the journal Global Environmental Change, includes a 42-page appendix of data from analyses producing about 800 parameters to support the findings.

Some previous studies suggested temperature patterns do, in fact, influence perceptions about global warming, but none measured climatic conditions as comprehensively as the current investigation. Past research often considers



a two-day window or a particular community and a single measure of temperature, not an expansive sweep of multiple climate measures as the authors of this study do.

The study analyzed climatic storm-severity measures used by NOAA - temperature, drought, precipitation and wind velocity - from all 50 states in combination with the 11 years of public opinion data. "This gives us the pulse of the nation," said Marquart-Pyatt.

## UK considers sustainable aviation fuel



A coalition of the UK's airlines, airports, manufacturers and air navigation service provider NATS, has launched its latest industry road map, which considers the opportunities for sustainable aviation fuels.

The Sustainable Aviation (SA) research identifies the potential for a 24 per cent reduction in aviation carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 and the generation of £265 million in economic value plus the creation of 4,400 jobs in the UK over the next 15 years.

However, the report, launched today at a reception at the Houses of Parliament, warns Government support will be vital to achieve this potential.

The research identifies and forecasts the potential volumes of sustainable aviation fuel to 2050, both for the UK and globally. It highlights the possible contribution

such fuels can make to supporting the decarbonisation of the UK economy, the opportunities for job creation and economic growth as well as the viability of the market for producers, refiners and investors.

SA says it hopes to build on the successful work promoting innovation that Government has already undertaken with industry, in order to develop a shared vision that focuses on investing in the commercialisation of high-value sustainable aviation fuels.

The leading findings of today's road-map, include:

- \* Forecasts that by 2030 there could be 90-160 operational sustainable fuel plants globally with revenue estimated at £8-17 billion - with up to 12 plants in the UK

- \* Defines an opportunity to develop a domestic industry for sustainable aviation fuels generating up to £265 million in

economic value, and supporting up to 4,400 jobs

- \* Identifies that with the right policy and investment framework, UK aviation can reduce its carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by up to 24% by 2050 through the deployment of sustainable alternative fuels.

- \* Recommends the establishment of a public-private initiative to help realise these opportunities, similar to the USA's Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuel Initiative (CAAIFI).

Jonathon Counsell, chair of Sustainable Aviation, said: "The UK aviation industry is committed to reducing its impact on the environment and this Road- Map not only demonstrates an additional way for us to do so but also identifies a new industry that could supply thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions pounds to our economy.

## New Report Shows Little Hope of Reaching 'Sustainable Population' in Next Century

According to recent projections, the number of people living on Earth could exceed ten billion by the end of this century. Now, a new study has examined what it would take to reverse that unrelenting growth and achieve a sustainable population that is less threatening to biodiversity and ecosystems around the world. Short of a global catastrophe, scientists say, the only way to halt this population momentum is to institute a planet-wide one-child policy within a few decades.

The new study comes on the heels of a statistical projection released in September. It analyzed U.N. data from July and calculated how likely population is to end up in different ranges. In particular, it found an 80

percent chance for a population between 9.6 billion and 12.3 billion by century's end, with the most likely figure at around 10.9 billion.

That number is not sustainable, according to Corey Bradshaw, a biologist at the University of Adelaide in Australia.

"Things like forest elephants? Kiss 'em goodbye. Tigers in India? They're gone," Bradshaw told mongabay.com.

Bradshaw and his Adelaide colleague, Barry Brook, examined whether it's possible to rein in population growth in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. They found that without draconian limits on the number of children per family, population growth is "virtually locked in."

The researchers studied computer models of population over the next century, focusing particularly on how different parameters-or levers-affected their models.

"We're not out there trying to predict there will be X number of people on the planet as of 2100," Bradshaw said. "What we didn't really know is the strength of the different levers one can pull."

Bradshaw and Brook pulled on three levers. First was fertility: the average number of children women have. Next was mortality: the likelihood that people die by a certain age. And the last was primiparity: the average age at which women have their first child. They modeled "what if?" scenarios that adjusted these levers.





# Indian JK chief minister Omar says Modi must apologize to people of Kashmir

NAGROTA: In the wake of the controversy over the hate speech by Union minister Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti, Jammu & Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi must apologize to the residents of Kashmir.

"Kashmir is a Muslim majority state and the Prime Minister who will hold a rally in Srinagar must apologize to the people of Kashmir as his cabinet colleague has used abusive language for people like us," Omar told reporters on the sidelines of an election rally here.

Asking BJP as how the party now expects votes from the people of Kashmir when such



Jammu & Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi must apologize to the residents of Kashmir. The times of India

derogatory words have been used for the people, he said "Modi should explain why no action was taken against the minister ... and apologize."

Reacting to a question on the Prime Minister's upcoming election rally in Kashmir in which BJP has claimed that it expects the participation of more than one lakh people, Omar said, "BJP has no dearth of money and they can offer food and arrange vehicles so it would not be a big deal to gather one lakh people from the entire Kashmir valley."

He said even separatist-turned-politician Sajad Lone can alone bring more than 20 to 30 thousand people to attend Modi's rally.

## Philippines disaster city braces for strong typhoon

TACLOBAN, PHILIPPINES: Authorities in a Philippine city ravaged by Super Typhoon Haiyan were Wednesday faced with how to keep residents still living in tents after the 2013 disaster safe as a new, powerful cyclone threatened to bring giant waves ashore.

The state weather service said Typhoon Hagupit was heading west for the central islands of Samar and Leyte, and would make landfall as early as Saturday afternoon with gusts of up to 170 kilometres (106 miles) an hour.

Residents in the city of Tacloban, which bore the brunt of Haiyan-the most powerful storm ever to make landfall-last year were clearing out grocery shelves in an effort to stock up on emergency provisions ahead of the storm.

Meanwhile authorities were due to meet later Wednesday to identify new evacuation centres far from shore.

Tacloban city Vice Mayor Jerry Yaokasin said about 500 families were still living in tents more than a year after waves up to seven metres tall driven ashore by Haiyan destroyed their homes.

## Indians mark 30th annive of Bhopal disaster

INDIA : Hundreds of survivors of the Bhopal gas leak took to the streets Wednesday to mark the 30th anniversary of the tragedy with protests demanding harsher punishments for those responsible and more compensation for the victims of the world's worst industrial disaster, reports AP.

On the morning of Dec. 3, 1984, a pesticide plant run by Union Carbide leaked about 40 tons of deadly methyl isocyanate gas into the air of Bhopal, quickly killing about 4,000 people. Lingering effects of the poison raised the death toll to about 15,000 over the next few years, according to government estimates.

# 11 more bodies recovered near sunken South Korean ship

SEOUL : Fishermen recovered 11 more bodies from the western Bering Sea Wednesday near where a South Korean fishing ship sank earlier this week, reports AP.

The bodies appear to be from the ship lost Monday in the waters near Russia, according to an official from the foreign ministry who didn't want to be named citing office rules. One fisherman's body was recovered Monday and seven fishermen were rescued. More than 50 went missing when the ship sank on Monday.

United States and at least five fishing ships were searching for the missing, according to an official from Seoul's foreign ministry, who didn't want to be named citing office rules. The U.S. rescue ship Munro should arrive Thursday to help the search effort.

The crew included 35 Indonesians, 13 Filipinos, 11 South Koreans and one Russian inspector, according to the South Korean government. It's believed the ship began to list after stormy weather caused seawater to flood its stor-



52 fishermen still missing after South Korean trawler sinks in Bering Sea. Reuters

The bodies were found by fishing vessels searching the debris of the sunken Oryong 501, said the ministry official. Furious relatives have blamed the company and the ship's captain for not doing enough to save their family members. Rough seas and bad weather mean there is little hope that anyone will be found alive.

Coast guard helicopters from Russia and the

age areas, according to officials from the government and the company that owns the ship.

The ship left South Korea on July 10 to catch pollock, a winter delicacy in South Korea, according to company officials. The sinking struck a nerve in a country less than eight months from its deadliest maritime disaster in decades.

# Australia says Embassies not there for absurd requests

AUSTRALIA: No, you can't get a loan to pay for a prostitute in Thailand. And seeking assistance to evict a polecat above a ceiling in the U.S. is going to be futile, reports AP.

Australia is taking steps to curb such absurd requests that its traveling citizens have lodged with Australian embassies and consulates around the world.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop announced the new measures Wednesday to underscore consular services as a last resort and to promote "a stronger culture of self-reliance and personal

responsibility in the traveling public."

These measures include a new policy of providing minimal consular services to Australians who willfully, repeatedly or negligently get themselves into trouble. Charging for the consular help is also something the government is considering, she said.

"Our consular staff are not there to pay for the repairs to your jet ski; they're not there to pay your hotel bill; they're not there to lend you a laptop or to provide you with office space in the embassy for you to do your work," Bishop

## Historical Day



## Death anniversary of Omar Khayyam

Omar Khayyám died on this day in 1131. Outside Iran and Persian speaking countries, Khayyám has had an impact on literature and societies through the translation of his works and popularization by other scholars. The greatest such impact was in English-speaking countries; the English scholar Thomas Hyde (1636-1703) was the first non-Persian to study him.

The most influential of all was Edward FitzGerald (1809-83),[6] who made Khayyám the most famous poet of the East in the West through his celebrated translation and adaptations of Khayyám's rather small number of quatrains in the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam. He was Born in8 May 1048 Born in Nishapur in North Eastern Ira. He was Persian poet, philosopher, mathematician, and astronomer not only at his aged but also after his death to till.

Omar Khayyám died in 1131 and is buried in the Khayyam Garden at the mausoleum of Imamzadeh Mahruq in Nishapur. In 1963, the mausoleum of Omar Khayyam was constructed on the site by Hooshang Seyhoun.

## Taiwan leader quits as party chair after poll loss

TAIWAN : Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou resigned Wednesday as chairman of the Beijing-friendly ruling Nationalists after surprisingly harsh local election losses, a signal the party plans to regroup for a tough 2016 presidential race and may shelve dialogue with China, reports UNB.

Ma tendered his resignation at a meeting of the party's Central Standing Committee, which was expected to pick Taiwan Vice President Wu Den-yih as interim chair.

## Mistress of corrupt China official sentenced

BEIJING : A Chinese court has sentenced the mistress of a disgraced former railway official to five years in prison for aiding his bribe-taking as Beijing widens a campaign against corruption to include lovers accused of involvement in the wrongdoing, state media reported Wednesday, reports AP.

Former professional singer Luo Fei had pleaded guilty at her trial last year of helping her lover Zhang Shuguang hide almost 2 million yuan (\$330,000) in bribes, the Beijing Legal Evening News and other newspapers said.

The reports said Luo opted not to appeal. Calls to Beijing's No.2 Intermediate People's Court where Luo was tried rang unanswered Wednesday.



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) with Australian PM Tony Abbott are hand shaking each other at Parliament House in Canberra recently. Reuters

# China, Australia agree to boost defence ties

BELJING: Beijing and Canberra have agreed to enhance military ties, Chinese state media reported, lauding defence relations between them even as Australia strengthens cooperation with the United States and Japan, reports Xinhua.

The move follows President Xi Jinping's visit to Australia last month, when they agreed to raise their ties to a "comprehensive strategic partnership" and sealed a free trade accord, the official Xinhua news agency reported late Tuesday.

Improving military relations illustrated "a new high of mutual political trust between our countries", it quoted Fan Changlong, vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission, as saying. "Military ties forge an important part of bilateral ties," he added.

Fan held talks with Mark Binskin, the head of Australia's military, and defence secretary Dennis Richardson, who were in China for an annual strategic dialogue.

Australia, a long-time defence ally of the United States, has also stepped up military ties with Japan and has occasionally tussled with China despite their close trade relations.

In July, Australian foreign minister Julie Bishop was quoted as saying that "China doesn't respect weakness" and that Canberra must "hope for the best and manage for the worst" in its relations with Beijing, prompting the ire of Chinese state media.

Bishop received a rare diplomatic dressing down from Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi when she visited Beijing in December last year after Canberra criticised China's declaration of an air defence zone in the East China Sea.

Last month, Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott, US President Barack Obama and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said they were committed to deepening their already strong security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific. Meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Brisbane, they announced enhanced defence cooperation, including trilateral exercises, maritime security capacity building and maritime domain awareness.

They also called for the peaceful resolution of maritime disputes-with China involved in territorial rows with Japan and several South-east Asian countries.

# Myanmar parliament to debate controversial religion laws

YANGON: Myanmar's president has approved a set of controversial draft religious laws inspired by radical Buddhist monks and sent them to parliament, officials said Wednesday, prompting rights groups to voice alarm over the divisive nature of the proposals, reports AFP/BSS.

The draft legislation-including curbs on interfaith marriage, religious conversion and birth rates-will be debated by MPs and voted on in the coming parliamentary session, according to president's office director Zaw Htay.

"The president had to draft the bills, but it is (parliament's) responsibility to enact them," he told AFP.

Rising Buddhist chauvinism-and the government's apparent willingness to acquiesce to it-

has sparked fears that religion could becoming increasingly politicised as the former junta-run nation heads towards crunch 2015 elections.

The drafts were initially proposed by a group of nationalist monks known as "Mabatha", or the Committee for the Protection of Nationality and Religion, who have been accused of fanning intolerance in Buddhist-majority Myanmar after several outbreaks of violence against minority Muslims. Opponents of the bills say they are discriminatory.

"These bills claim to be to protect women, but they are drafted against women's will," Ma Khin Lay, founder of rights organisation Triangle Women's Group Support, told AFP. "It is discrimination and control."



Lawmakers attend a parliamentary session in Naypyidaw. Photo: MSN

## Spot Light News

### Singer-turned preacher investigated for blasphemy

PAKISTAN : Police in Pakistan say they have opened a blasphemy investigation against a pop singer-turned Islamic preacher accused of insulting one of the wives of Islam's prophet. Police officer Sheraz Majid said Wednesday that officials opened the case Tuesday.

### Myanmar 'under military control' says US admiral

WASHINGTON : The nominee to become the next commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific says the time isn't right to expand nascent military ties with Myanmar as the Southeast Asian nation remains "firmly under military control."

### 3 Hong Kong protest leaders surrender to police

HONG KONG : Three founders of a civil disobedience campaign that helped spark Hong Kong's pro-democracy protest movement have entered a police station to surrender after calling for an end to the street demonstrations. Professors Benny Tai Yiu-ting and Chan Kin-man and the Rev. Chu Yiu-ming haven't been charged but authorities say protests.

### Pakistan running special trains for terror mastermind Hafiz Saeed

LAHORE : In a sign of official patronage to Mumbai attacks mastermind Hafiz Saeed-led JuD, Pakistan government is running two special trains to transport people to Lahore for the terror group's two-day congregation here.

### Japanese space explorer to blow crater in asteroid

TOKYO : A Japanese space explorer has departed on a six-year roundtrip journey to blow a crater in a remote asteroid in hopes of gathering clues to the origin of earth. Hayabusa2 was launched Wednesday from Tanegashima Space Center in southern Japan.

### Ahead of Union Budget, Jaitley asks states to generate their own resources

SRINAGAR : Ahead of next Union Budget, finance minister Arun Jaitley today hinted at a cut in grants from the Centre to states, saying the states will have to stand on their own by generating resources for development and other schemes.





Syria's President Bashar Assad is sworn for his third, seven-year term, in Damascus, Syria. Assad said in remarks published Wednesday that U.S.-led airstrikes targeting Islamic State group militants in his country are neither serious nor efficient, claiming they have failed to produce any tangible results. AP

## Assad says US-led airstrikes not serious or efficient

BEIRUT : Syrian President Bashar Assad said in remarks published Wednesday that U.S.-led airstrikes targeting Islamic State group militants in his country are neither serious nor efficient, claiming they have failed to produce any tangible results.

Obama rules out alliance with Syria's Assad against IS AFP He also accused Turkey of continuing to provide direct support to the militants, reports AP.

Assad spoke in a rare interview conducted Nov. 28 in Damascus with Paris Match magazine, his first in months. His comments critical of the U.S. airstrikes appear intended to give the impression that his forces are the most effective in fighting Islamic extremists.

"You can't end terrorism with aerial

strikes. Troops on the ground that know the land and can react are essential," the magazine quoted Assad as saying. "That is why there haven't been any tangible results in the two months of strikes led by the coalition."

The full interview was expected to be published Thursday.

Both Assad's forces and the U.S. have been bombing Islamic State group targets in northern Syria, although U.S. officials say they don't coordinate strikes with his embattled government.

Assad said the U.S. strikes "would of course have helped had they been serious and efficient."

"We are running the ground battles against Daesh, and we have noticed no change, especially with Turkey provid-

ing direct support to these regions," he was quoted as saying, using an Arabic acronym for the group.

Assad has insisted throughout Syria's nearly 4-year-old conflict that he has been fighting foreign-inspired Islamic extremists and "terrorists" - not Syrians calling for reform and freedom. Activists say more than 200,000 people have been killed since March 2011.

Asked by the magazine about whether he was afraid of suffering the same demise as former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein or Libya's Moammar Gadhafi, Assad reportedly replied: "The captain doesn't think about death, or life, he thinks about saving his ship. If he thinks about sinking, everyone will die."

### Historical Day

#### Somerset Maugham sails for Pago Pago

On this day in 1916, W. Somerset Maugham departs on a voyage to Pago Pago. Characters he meets on the voyage, including a prostitute and a missionary, inspire the story "Miss Thompson," which is published in his 1923 story collection, *The Trebling of a Leaf*. The story becomes the play *Rain*, which is filmed three times, once starring Gloria Swanson, once with Joan Crawford, and once with Rita Hayworth.

Somerset Maugham was born at the British embassy in Paris in 1874. Both his father and his grandfather were lawyers, and his brother later became Lord Chancellor of England. Maugham was unsuited to the law profession, however, due to his pronounced stammer and extreme shyness, exacerbated by the death of his parents when he was 10. Maugham chose medicine instead of law. His first novel, *Liza of Lambeth*, describes his experiences working in London's slums.

#### Obama meets with business leaders at 11:15 a.m.

Washington: President Barack Obama is meeting with leading CEOs to discuss ways to promote the economy and create jobs during his last two years in office, reports UNB.

Obama on Wednesday will attend the quarterly meeting of the Business Roundtable, an association of CEOs. Obama plans to give a speech and also take questions.

The White House says Obama will use the meeting to promote bipartisan opportunities to grow the economy and the middle class, such as tax reform, infrastructure spending and trade agreements.

#### Republican leaders clash on foreign policy

Washington: Even as they attack President Barack Obama's foreign policy, and with politics turning to the 2016 race for president, the most ambitious Republican leaders have begun to clash with each other over the U.S. role in global affairs, reports UNB.

Several high-profile Republicans offered differing visions this week for U.S. leadership abroad, pitting the party's national security hawks against libertarian-minded conservatives whose influence is growing in Republican politics. Largely an afterthought in the last presidential contest, foreign policy has become a place where prospective 2016 contenders can jockey for position before officially declaring plans to seek the White House.

## Jordan hopes for Israeli-Palestinian UN resolution

United Nations: Jordan's U.N. envoy said Tuesday she will be trying to get the U.N. Security Council to agree on a resolution before Christmas that would press for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, reports UNB.

Ambassador Dina Kavar, the Arab representative on the 15-member council, told a group of reporters that there are Palestinian and French drafts, and there may be others.

The Palestinians circulated a draft on Oct. 1 asking the council to set a deadline of November 2016 for an Israeli withdrawal from all Palestinian territory occupied since 1967. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said last Friday that France is working for a U.N. resolution aimed at restarting Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations - and setting a two-year deadline for success.

Kavar said Jordan will be working to get a text acceptable to all council members.

"We will be sitting together and seeing ... the possibilities of working with everybody to get as close as possible to a unified text that will be for the interests of everybody," Kavar said. "We're going to try to make it before

Christmas. If not, it will be in January. We really want to get everybody on board and that's our intention."

Support from the United States, Israel's closest ally and a veto-wielding member of the Security Council, is crucial for approval of a new resolution. The Obama administration has made clear its opposition to a deadline for the end to Israel's occupation, insisting that the only way to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is through negotiations.

Diplomats said the Obama administration has been working on elements for a possible resolution, but Washington hasn't circulated anything yet. They spoke on condition of anonymity because there has been no U.S. announcement.

The push for Security Council action follows the failure of U.S.-brokered peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians led by Secretary of State John Kerry, this summer's 50-day war between Israel and Hamas, the Palestinian faction that controls the Gaza Strip, and the recent upsurge in violence sparked by disputes over Jerusalem's hilltop complex that is revered by Muslims and Jews.



Kavar said Jordan will be working to get a text acceptable to all council members. Yahoo

## Somalia car bomb targets UN convoy near airport

Somalia : At least four people have been killed in a car bomb blast next to a UN convoy in Somalia's capital, police say. The bomb exploded as the convoy travelled along the road near the airport in Mogadishu, police said. A second blast targeted African Union (AU) troops about 25km (15 miles) from the city, but details are sketchy, a BBC reporter says, reports AP.

Al-Shabab, linked to al-Qaeda, has often carried out attacks in Somalia and neighbouring Kenya. On Tuesday, it killed 36 quarry workers near the northern Kenyan town of Mandera. It has not commented on the latest explosions. "The explosion was very big and there is smoke all around the area. I can hardly see people lying on the ground, either dead or wounded," witness Shamsu Idle told AFP news agency.

Police said at least four people, including a

Somali intelligence officer, were killed and about 10 others were wounded in the blast, reports the BBC's Mohamed Moalimu from Mogadishu. The UN has not reported any casualties among its staff.

Its security personnel were at the site, inspecting the wreckage, our correspondent says.

The explosion targeting AU troops took place in Lafole village, south of Mogadishu, our correspondent says.

The AU has some 22,000 troops helping the weak and divided Somali government battle al-Shabab. The UN has no troops in Somalia, and says it staff are involved in political activities aimed at helping the government achieve stability. Various armed groups have been battling for control of Somalia since the overthrow of President Siad Barre in 1991.



Foreign security personnel were at the site of the blast.

PTI

### Spot Light News

#### Swedish government faces ouster in Parliament vote

Denmark: Sweden's lawmakers have started debating the budget proposals of the minority government which faces a vote of no confidence in Parliament after a far-right party said it would side with the opposition to force the left-leaning coalition to resign, reports AP/UNB.

After late-night talks with government partners and center-right opposition parties, Social Democrat Prime Minister Stefan Lofven said he would wait until the debate to decide whether to step down.

#### Yemen: car bomb near home of Iranian ambassador

Yemen: A massive car bomb exploded Wednesday morning in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, apparently targeting the home of the Iranian ambassador, reports AP/UNB. The blast heavily damaged several buildings in the area. At least two people were killed, both security guards at the ambassador's residence, the officials said. The Yemeni officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to brief the media.

#### Cyprus president's heart surgery success

Cyprus: An official says Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades' surgery to repair a heart valve was successful and that he remains in stable condition, reports AP/UNB. Cyprus government spokesman Nicos Christodoulides says Anastasiades will remain in intensive care for the next few days. Christodoulides said Wednesday that a surgeon performed the operation at New York City's Mount Sinai Hospital to repair the mitral and tricuspid heart valves.

#### Lufthansa pilots threaten to go on strike Thursday

Berlin: A union representing pilots at German airline Lufthansa says they will go on strike again Thursday in a dispute over retirement benefits, reports AP. The Vereinigung Cockpit union says the strike will affect long-haul and cargo flights. Short- and medium-haul flights aren't affected. It would be the second strike at Lufthansa this week. A walk-out Monday and Tuesday forced Germany's biggest airline to cancel 1,350 of its 2,800 scheduled flights, affecting 150,000 passengers.

#### Egypt says Insulting revolutions to be criminalized

Cairo: Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi says a law is being drafted to criminalize insulting the uprisings that toppled President Hosni Mubarak in 2011 and his Islamist successor Mohammed Morsi in 2013, reports AP/UNB. Criminalizing insulting the uprisings would help appease both sides of a widening rift over whether the two popular movements expressed the genuine will of Egyptians. The dispute was further stoked by a judge's dismissal last weekend of a murder case against Mubarak over the killing of protesters during the 2011 uprising.

#### Rockefeller Center Christmas tree to be lighted

New York: The heart of Manhattan will soon be ablaze with 45,000 LED lights gracing an 85-foot (26-meter)-tall Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center, reports UNB.

On Wednesday evening, the air will reverberate with the voices of Lady Gaga, Tony Bennett, Mariah Carey, Cyndi Lauper and other music stars for the nationwide live broadcast. Tens of thousands of people are expected to stand behind police barricades to watch the annual spectacle.



## 13th International Short and Independent Film Festival begins today



### Entertainment Desk

The 13th International Short and Independent Film Festival, under the auspices of Bangladesh Short Film Forum, will begin in the city on Thursday.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith is expected to inaugurate the eight-day festival at the National Museum Auditorium.

The slogan of this year's festival is: 'Free cinema, free expression'.

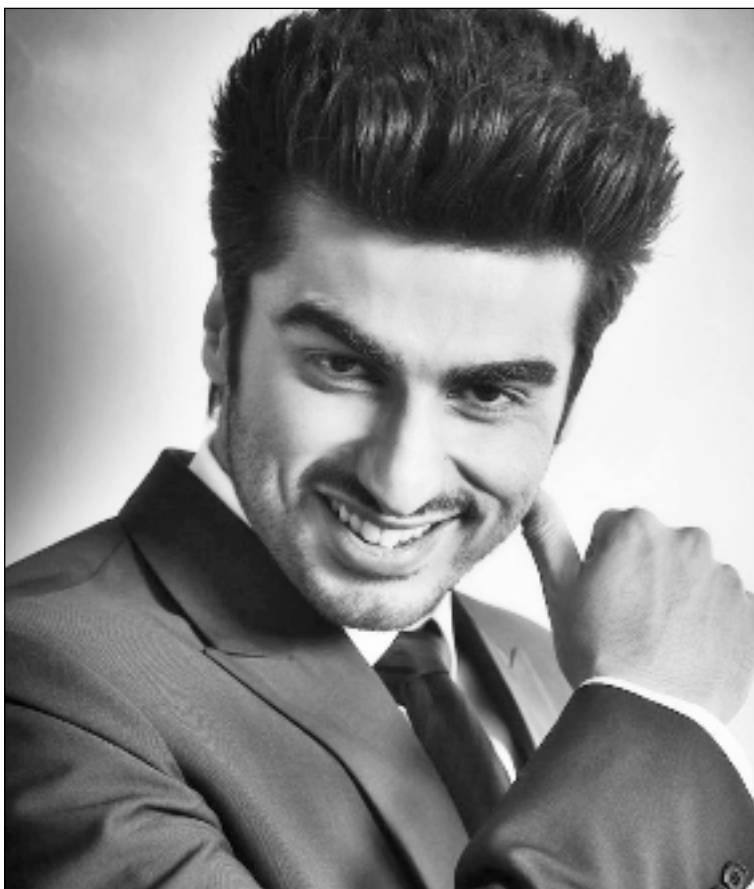
Briefing reporters at the Dhaka Reporters Unity on Tuesday, organisers said some 200 short and independent films from 40 countries will be screened at the festival.

Films will be screened at six venues in the capital - National Museum, Central Public Library, Shilpakala Academy, Jagannath University, Russian Cultural Centre and Independent University Bangladesh.

Apart from film screening, the event will feature a talent-hunt programme, lectures, seminars, filmmaking workshops and special exhibitions.

Renowned Indian filmmaker Shyam Benegal will attend the festival as a special guest.

Bangladesh Short Film Forum president Manjare Hasin Murad and festival committee chairman Nasiruddin Yousuff was present at the press conference.



## Arjun Kapoor's "childhood dream" fulfilled in Tevar

### Entertainment Desk

Arjun Kapoor's childhood dream of working with producer father Boney Kapoor has come true with upcoming action-drama film Tevar, where the father-son duo has collaborated for the first time.

Arjun, who is Boney Kapoor's son from his first wife Mona Shourie, said it was a nice moment to work in the film which also stars his uncle Sanjay Kapoor. "It's not yet sunk in that I have worked for a home production. It has always been a dream working with dad, Sanjay (Kapoor) chachu and Anil (Kapoor) chachu. And that happened in my fifth film. There are more emotions attached at the personal level than at the professional front," Arjun told PTI in an interview.

The 29-year-old Finding Fanny actor said he waited for a long time to work with his father.

"I am emotional by nature. I waited for this opportunity for 29 years. And it's not an easy job to be accepted as an actor. Obviously, he has a sense of pride and that reflects in our emotions and that I guess will happen quite often," he said.

Arjun recalled how he used to accompany his father on his grand sets. "I always thought that my father is the biggest producer in this world. His films sets used to be so big that I used to get lost in it.

During the shooting of Loafer there was a huge set at Ramoji film city and similarly during Roop Ki Rani Choron Ka Raja, the set was for 150 junior artists and 200 actors," he said.

The actor said his father always taught him to work hard to get success.

"I learnt from dad that hard work never fails. He always asked me to work hard to survive in the industry. He is always encouraging. One thing which I like about him is he is not interfering even as a father or as a producer. Whatever wrong or right decisions I have made he always supported me. He has given me that much respect and credit. Always supported my decisions in my personal and professional life," Arjun said.

Tevar, which hits theatre on January 9 next year, is a remake of Telugu blockbuster Okkadu. It stars actress Sonakshi Sinha opposite him.

## Stephen Hawking would like to play a Bond villain

### Entertainment Desk

Renowned physicist Stephen Hawking, the subject of the highly-acclaimed biopic The Theory of Everything, has revealed that he would not be averse to appearing on the big screen himself.

"My ideal role would be a baddie in James Bond. I think the wheelchair and the computer voice would fit the part," he said.

Rumours suggest he would be battling Christoph Waltz for the main antagonist role in the next 007, but the thought of Mr Hawking on screens is not quite so far-fetched, with him having famously appeared in episodes of Star Trek and The Simpsons.

Earlier this year, he also popped up in a special video recorded for the Monty Python Live (Mostly) shows in London, singing the Galaxy Song



## Jared Leto and Will Smith to Star as Supervillains in Suicide Squad

### Entertainment Desk

Actors Jared Leto, Will Smith, Tom Hardy, Jai Courtney and actresses Margot Robbie and Cara Delevingne are lined up as the dream cast of much awaited supervillain film Suicide Squad.

The cast and characters of the film were announced on Tuesday, reports



variety.com.

Based on the DC comic book, the story is about a team of supervillains who are given a chance to redeem themselves by the government. However, in the end, their mission will probably kill them all.

As per the announcement, Jared will play the role of The Joker, Will Smith will be seen as Deadshot, Tom as

Rick Flag, Margot as Harley Quinn, Jai as Boomerang and Cara as Enchantress.

Directed by David Ayer, the film's shooting will begin in April 2015 in Toronto.

Meanwhile, Jesse Eisenberg is rumoured to play Lex Luthor in the film. Suicide Squad is set to hit the theaters on August 5, 2016.

## It's Jacqueline Fernandez not Deepika Padukone in Sujoy Ghosh's next

### Entertainment Desk

A while ago, rumour were abuzz that director Sujoy Ghosh has approached Deepika Padukone for his next movie starring Saif Ali Khan.

Eversince, Sujoy met Amitabh Bachchan and Deepika Padukone on the sets of Piku in Kolkata, rumours started floating that the director is planning to bring the hit pair back on screen.

However, the director has denied the rumours saying he isn't even considering Deepika for the film. "No, I am not even considering her (Deepika)

for my film," Sujoy told a leading daily. Sujoy has infact signed his Aladin actress Jacqueline Fernandez opposite Saif.

Jacqueline says, "Yes, I have been approached by Sujoy. But it's too early to talk about it as the paper work is yet to be done. I am excited about reuniting with him (after Aladin; 2009) and sharing screen space with Saif."

With Kick, Dhishoom, Roy, Bangistaan, Brothers, Hollywood project Definition of Fear Film and now Sujoy Ghosh's next, Jacqueline is slowly and steadily moving up there.



## Horoscope

### Aries (March 21 - April 19)

Today, more than ever, you will yearn to escape the daily routine, Aries. You thirst for new sights and sounds, new faces and new places, but you know you must juggle your desires with professional and domestic obligations. It isn't always easy. Trust your imagination to find a way to settle this conflict.

### Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

You're finally on the mend, Taurus. The minor ailments that may have dragged you down lately are beginning to disappear. You're about to regain all of your physical energy. If you overindulge, your energy level is likely to plummet once again. If nothing else, you will have learned a valuable lesson about the importance of moderation, especially now. Don't overdo it!

### Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Do you feel a little under the weather today, Gemini? It's quite possible, considering all the emotional turmoil you've been through lately. It takes time to recover from such storms. As you know, the work itself isn't what gets you down. It's worry about the future that drains your energy. Give yourself a break today. Take some time for rest and recuperation.

### Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

There is some likelihood that the mood at home is fraught with tension. Did you have some intellectual disagreement? In any case, it looks as though your self-confidence is stronger than ever right now. Go ahead and express any complaints or opinions you may have been keeping to yourself, Cancer. But try and do it gently, especially where family is concerned.

### Leo (July 23 - August 22)

It seems that your sensitivity is in slight conflict with your actions, Leo. You continue to go through the daily motions and do what you planned on doing, but it seems as though your heart is no longer in it. Don't ask why. It's just that you've been working hard and thinking hard lately. You've reached your limit and it's time to rest.

### Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

You may have been spending or saving too much money, Virgo. It's clear that a rebalancing is in order if you're to find pleasure rather than frustration. It's a curious phenomenon, as though you've lost contact with your body. Yet it's in your body where you will ultimately find your balance. You certainly won't find it in your head!

### Libra (September 23 - October 22)

Perhaps you've been impatiently waiting for the moment to jump into new adventures after your meditation during the last few months. Know that the moment has almost arrived! You now have the strategy, objective, and means at your disposal to succeed. Just a bit more work remains to be done. Gather your strength and get ready to take action with renewed vigor.

### Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

If you find yourself tired and irritable at the moment, Scorpio, you should know that this is normal. You may have had a few weeks that were a little too studios. Would you like to continue on the same path? Be careful that your ambitions don't lead you to serious physical exhaustion, Scorpio. You'll be even more frustrated if you get sick. So be wise and take care of your basic needs.

### Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

This is going to be a good moment to look elsewhere, Sagittarius. You should do just as the artist does when he has worked too long on a painting, which is to take a step back. You need to see people, travel, go to the theater, and clear your head. This is never easy for you, but do it anyway. Afterwards you'll think it was the best thing for you.

### Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

This is the right moment to extricate yourself from relationships that have seen their day, Capricorn. This won't be easy, but you must. In your professional and private lives, you're too hesitant to get out of distasteful situations or obligations. You're afraid of hurting people or making them mad. But in the end, you're hurting yourself. Give more weight to your own needs and follow your own path.

### Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

You took off like a bullet a few days ago, making great progress in a short amount of time. Now you're grappling with doubts that are undermining all of your energy. Reflecting on the events of the past few days, it's obvious that you were somewhat reckless in your headlong pursuit of your goals. Don't give up, Aquarius. Rethink your strategy.

### Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

There is some likelihood that you will be haunted by thoughts of your love life today, Pisces. Perhaps you're intrigued by the idea of exploring certain secret realms of your relationship, yet you aren't sure how to communicate this to your mate. Perhaps you're still testing the waters, waiting until you know how you feel. In any case, you might make a decision to proceed today.





Bangladesh have had much to celebrate in the last six weeks. Cricinfo

# The resurgence Bangladesh waited a year for

**Sports Desk**  
There are several ways to measure Bangladesh's success in the Test and ODI series against Zimbabwe over the past six weeks. The 8-0 winning streak represents a general sense of relief and a restoration of a cricket-mad public's trust in the team, reports Cricinfo.  
They had lost 22 of 27 matches across formats till mid-September, and had come back devastated from the tour of West Indies. The team was sore from losing everywhere and to every kind of opponent. The captaincy was split and one of their more dependable batsmen was dropped. But their best player returned and all the eggs were put in the Zimbabwe basket. There was an all too familiar hiccup on the third day of the Dhaka Test, but Mushfiqur Rahim and Taijul Islam manoeuvred Bangladesh to victory and Zimbabwe were broken. There have been periods when a Hamilton Masakadza, or a Sikandar

Raza or a Tinashe Panyangara resisted but it never lasted too long. Zimbabwe were confused by spin and they struggled against pace in the ODI series as well. Bangladesh's catching and fielding was largely good and most importantly, the batsmen remained consistent. The opening pair had to be tweaked only once in the Tests. Imrul Kayes was drafted in for the out-of-form Shamsur Rahman and became party to Bangladesh's highest first-wicket partnership. Tamim Iqbal had been at the other end during the 224-run stand in Chittagong, and his patience and hunger to bat out the entire day's play in Khulna was of great benefit to Bangladesh. A slightly patchier Tamim was part of two superb starts in the ODI series as well. His partner Anamul Haque must address his limited footwork but has showed a desire to bat long, which bodes well for a line-up that craves stability. Shakib Al Hasan

reiterated why he is Bangladesh's heart and soul. He became only the third cricketer after Ian Botham and Imran Khan to take a ten-for and score a century in the same Test, in Khulna. In the ODI series too, he scored his sixth hundred and took a four-for in the same game. Mushfiqur was the Man of the Series in the ODIs, after crucial knocks in the first and fourth matches. He was off-colour for much of the Test series, except in Dhaka when he top-scored in the first innings and shepherded a tricky chase in the second. Mominul's consistency rose to a new peak during the Tests. He topped Bangladesh's charts with 321 runs and has 11 fifty-plus scores from 12 Tests, following in the footsteps of Everton Weekes, Sunil Gavaskar and Mark Taylor. He was nondescript in the ODIs though, where he was shunted around the batting order and "rested" for the last two games.

# Man United beats Stoke 2-1 for 4th straight win

**Sports Desk**  
Manchester United relied on a fortunate winning goal from Juan Mata and a breathtaking double save from David de Gea in injury time to beat Stoke 2-1 and secure a fourth straight Premier League victory on Tuesday, reports AP.  
Comfortable but never convincing at Old Trafford, United ended up scrambling to the three points that kept the team in the top four and maintained its revival under new manager Louis van Gaal.  
Mata's winner in the 59th minute had a slice of fortune about it, with the Spain playmaker's inswinging free kick from the right curling over the heads of a number of players in the box and bouncing into the far corner.  
However, it needed two superb saves from De Gea and a goal-line clearance from Ashley Young - all in the final two minutes of injury time - to prevent Stoke from checking United's momentum.  
"I am not happy with the performance," Van Gaal said. "Maybe we forced the luck and that is also because of the fighting spirit."  
Without the injured pair of Wayne Rooney and Angel Di Maria, United lacked creativity and took a 21st-minute lead through a direct route when Marouane Fellaini scored a towering, far-post header.  
Steven Nzonzi equalized in the 39th for Stoke with a powerful shot from the edge of the area and failed to genuinely test United until a frantic, final few minutes.  
"The episodes at the end were unbelievable," said Stoke manager Mark Hughes, who spent 13 years at United as a player across two spells.  
United has been looking to restore the fear factor at Old Trafford - but its makeshift team was far from intimidating without Rooney and Di Maria, and a defense containing wingers Young and Antonio Valencia as full backs.  
In the end, two high balls into the box - crosses that Stoke's physically imposing

teams down the years were masters at dealing with - were the downfall of the hard-working but limited visitors.  
Fellaini nipped in front of left back Erik Pieters to meet a hanging cross to the far post by Ander Herrera with a downward header into the center of the goal. Stoke should have been behind by then, with Herrera blasting a shot over the bar after Robin van Persie had intercepted a weak clearance by goalkeeper Asmir Begovic.  
Nzonzi scored with Stoke's only shot on goal in the first half but United restored its lead just before the hour mark when Mata swung in a cross that narrowly eluded leaping United defender Marcos Rojo, who initially claimed the goal, and dropped into the far corner.  
Fit-again Colombia striker Radamel Falcao came on for the final 12 minutes for United to replace 19-year-old James Wilson, who came in for Rooney.  
But it was Stoke which finished the stronger, with Mame Biram Diouf seeing a header brilliantly parried out by De Gea and then having his goalbound shot cleared off the line by Young.  
"I'm happy with the result," Van Gaal said, "tomorrow we have a Christmas party and it's important we can enjoy that."



Manchester United's Marcos Rojo, centre right in red, watches as the ball heads goalwards as teammate Juan Mata, out of frame, scores from a free kick during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Stoke City at Old Trafford Stadium, Manchester, England, Tuesday Dec. 2, 2014. AP

# Pakistan, New Zealand dedicate T20 trophy to Hughes

**Sports Desk**  
Pakistan and New Zealand dedicated the trophy for their two Twenty20 matches in the Dubai starting on Thursday in memory of Australian batsman Phillip Hughes who died last week, reports SBS.  
Hughes died last Thursday, two days after being hit by a bouncer in a first class match in Sydney, leaving the cricketing world to mourn his death.  
Hughes's funeral was held early Wednesday, as Pakistan and New Zealand prepare for the shortest format of the game after drawing a preceding Test series 1-1.  
Pakistan's Twenty20 captain Shahid Afridi said Hughes's tragic death has left the cricketing world in a shock.  
"Hughes died very young and his tragic death has left everyone shocked," said Afridi on Wednesday. "We are thankful to the sponsors who have decided to dedicate the trophy in memory of Hughes as a mark of respect," said Afridi on Wednesday.  
Pakistan are boosted by the return of paceman Umar Gul, who has not played

international cricket since April due to a knee problem.  
Gul is the second highest wicket-taker in Twenty20 with 80 in 56 games, five behind Ajmal's 85.  
He famously took 5-6 in a World Twenty20 group match against New Zealand at The Oval when Pakistan won the title in 2009.  
Pakistan will hope their pace attack, which also includes the lanky 7ft, 1 inch (2.1m) Mohammad Irfan supplement the bowling attack which has spinners in Raza Hasan and Shahid Afridi.  
Pakistan had a miserable World Twenty20 in Bangladesh where they failed to reach the last four for the first time in five editions of the tournament.  
That prompted captain Mohammad Hafeez to step down, giving the responsibility to all-rounder Afridi for a second stint.  
But Afridi's return as captain wasn't auspicious as Pakistan lost the only Twenty20 against Australia in Dubai in October by six wickets.  
Afridi said Pakistan will not underestimate New Zealand who are

without their dashing skipper Brendon McCullum who, along with pacemen Tim Southee and Trent Boult, have returned to New Zealand to prepare for the upcoming home series against Sri Lanka.  
"New Zealand are a dangerous limited over side and we will not underestimate them," said Afridi. "We have to be at out best to beat them."  
McCullum smashed a brilliant 202 to help New Zealand win the third and final Test in Sharjah on Sunday in the series-levelling win.  
Kane Williamson, who has led New Zealand in three one-day matches and two Twenty20s will lead the Black Caps while Ross Taylor, fast bowler Adam Milne and batting all-rounder Anton Devcich return to the squad.  
Pacemen Mitchell McClenaghan and Kyle Mills and spinner Nathan McCullum will also boost New Zealand.  
Pakistan have beaten New Zealand in six of their nine Twenty20s with three losses.  
After the second Twentyw20, also in Dubai on Friday, both teams will play five one-day internationals.



Hughes's funeral was held early Wednesday, as Pakistan and New Zealand prepare for the shortest format of the game after drawing a preceding Test series 1-1. AP

## News in Brief



## 'I have gone through what you're going through'

**Sports Desk**  
Like everyone else, Mehrab Hossain kept himself updated about Phillip Hughes' condition on November 25, when he was struck by a bouncer during a Sheffield Shield match at the Sydney Cricket Ground, and learned of his death two days later. Mehrab also kept tabs on Sean Abbott, the bowler who delivered that bouncer. Mehrab has followed everything that players and the media have been saying about whether or not Abbott will be able to play cricket again. Mehrab would know exactly what Abbott is going through, feeling, and perhaps even thinking. On February 20, 1998, Mehrab played the pull shot that struck Raman Lamba on his unprotected forehead while he was fielding at short leg during a club game in Dhaka. Lamba, 38 and a former India player, died two days later.



## Serena's Slammers lose again as Aces continue to dominate

**Sports Desk**  
Serena Williams returned to the scene of her WTA Finals win but could not prevent her Singapore Slammers team slumping to a fourth straight defeat in the inaugural International Premier Tennis League (IPTL) on Tuesday. The world number one is the highest-profile player participating in the four-city mixed team event at Singapore's Indoor Stadium this week but it was the unbeaten Delhi-based Indian Aces who continued to dominate the early proceedings. The Aces were on court first as a sparse crowd witnessed the form side of the tournament ease to a 30-11 victory over the UAE Royals in the five one-set format tie that is decided on games won rather than overall set victories.



## Australia bars Chinese swim star Sun after doping ban

**Sports Desk**  
Chinese swimming sensation Sun Yang has been barred from training in Australia and his coach plans to sever ties with the Olympic champion after he was banned for doping, it was reported Wednesday. The double Olympic champion and 1,500 metres world record-holder served a three-month penalty after testing positive for the banned stimulant trimetazidine in May. He completed his ban on August 17, but it was only revealed by Chinese authorities last week. Swimming Australia high performance boss Michael Scott met Sun's Australian coach Denis Cotterell and advised him the star swimmer was no longer welcome to train in Australia.

## Crosswords

Quiz No-574



Answers of the Quiz No-575



## DOWN

- Homeless children
- Irish
- Counterfoils
- Ancient unit of measure
- Insincere
- Anagram of "Paste"
- Sweeping story
- Haberdashers
- Barbie's beau
- Drink
- Feldspar
- Hoodlum
- Views
- Oceans
- Unrestrained revelry
- Sounds of disapproval
- Countercurrent
- Achievements
29. God of love
30. Money owed
31. Recent events
32. Comply with
33. Noticeable
34. Plunges
37. Large
38. A promiscuous woman
40. Unique
41. Sew together loosely
43. Arch of the foot
44. Objective
46. Compacted
47. Excuse
48. Part of a stair
49. A short simple song
50. Cuts the lawn
51. Send forth
53. Not
56. Estimated time of arrival
57. Flee

## ACROSS

- Clean
5. Smidgen
10. Rapsallions
14. Against
15. Official tree of Canada
16. Pout
17. Flood
19. Part of a skeleton
20. Watch chain
21. Construct
22. Pig sounds
23. Schemes
25. Seasonings
27. Operative
28. Moved restlessly
31. Recesses
34. Poverty-stricken
35. Mineral rock
36. Wanes
37. Ancient
38. Pig
39. Damp
40. Kicks out
41. Highly favored
42. Needles
44. Letter after sigma
45. Lacking leadership
46. A despicable coward
50. Untidy
52. Unreactive
54. 52 in Roman numerals
55. Leave out
56. A preacher
58. Marry
59. Brusque
60. Assist in crime
61. Stair
62. Heretofore (2 words)
63. Like a bog



The pilots' union, Vereinigung Cockpit, announced plans for further strikes on Frankfurt and Munich airports will

Almost 50% of long-haul flights from Frankfurt and Munich airports will

Lufthansa said it had made concessions in recent talks, including giving the pilots a 5% pay rise. The strikes this year have knocked \$160m (£102m) off the airline's operating profits. The union said "despite all efforts for compromise proposals" by Lufthansa pilots during several rounds of negotiations since October, it had been unable to come to a satisfactory agreement with the company's management.

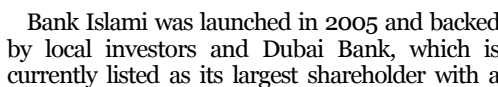
While inviting expressions of interest from prospective consultants and owners, S&T Mining said it would prefer mines in Australia.



The statement precedes Britain's full annual budget announcement, which

She added: "However, any major tax giveaways today would leave the UK finances in a far less sound condition than had been intended at the start of the government's tenure." Britain's economy is outperforming the eurozone but in recent months market analysts have raised concerns over the impact of falling inflation on British wage growth. With many workers failing to win salary increases, the government has seen tax receipts shrink, hindering its bid to shrink the deficit. On Wednesday, the government also provides its latest forecasts for British economic growth and public finances.

The bank has the second largest network of Islamic branches in the country, and plans to open a total of 12 branches this year, down from the 60 it opened in 2013.



outstanding sales tax refund dues would be cleared, and thereafter, the government would introduce zero-rating for all categories of exports.

US Trade Representative Michael Froman met Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitaraman last month for the first session of the US-India Trade Policy Forum since 2010.

GD-1726/14 (10"x4)GD-1728/14 (11x3)





Dhaka University Pro Vice Chancellor- Academic Professor Dr. Nasreen Ahmad on Wednesday addressing a educational ceremony at university's RC Majumdar auditorium. German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), located in Dhaka, organized the seminar aiming to support of international academic cooperation.

Prof Imtiaz barred from attending Karachi University conf I got surprised; it's a barrier to freedom of speech, says Imtiaz

DHAKA : Dhaka University Prof Dr Imtiaz Ahmed on Wednesday expressed his displeasure over a decision of Karachi University (KU) baring him from attending a conference and termed it a barrier to freedom of speech, reports UNB.

"I got surprised hearing the decision, but nothing to do," he told UNB over phone on Wednesday.

He was supposed to present the keynote paper at the conference titled 'Challenges of Transition in Social Sciences' today organised by KU faculty of social sciences.

"I was supposed to fly for Pakistan on December 1 but they asked me not to go," said Prof Imtiaz, a teacher of International Relations and Director of the Centre for Genocide Studies at Dhaka University, adding that it was also embarrassing for the university.

Responding to a question, he said either Jamaat-e-Islami or local organisation, probably raised questions about his writings on the Liberation War of 1971, and the university authorities apparently accepted their suggestion.

"It's very natural an academic will

keep on writing. I didn't write anything against the people of Pakistan. I wrote about the role of Pakistan during 1971 which is known to all," he said.

However, many in the Pakistan expressed dissatisfaction over the decision, said the DU teacher.

"It seems that the issue of freedom of speech is gradually falling in trouble in the entire subcontinent," he added.

The administration of Karachi University (KU) has stopped Bangladeshi scholar Prof Dr Imtiaz Ahmed from participating in a conference organised on the campus on Wednesday, reportedly giving in to pressure from a student organisation, reports The Dawn.

"The university administration had some concerns relating to his participation and I was requested to politely convey the message to the senior professor, which I did," Prof Moonis Ahmar, the dean of the faculty of social sciences, KU, said and confirmed the information but declined to comment further.

University registrar Moazzam Ali Khan, however, expressed his unawareness of the matter and said: "I

am not aware of any university administration's concerns. Usually, when such events are organised, respective departments submit a list of speakers invited to the event but that was not done in this case."

Sources said that the university took the step following a meeting of the vice chancellor with representatives of a student organisation that strongly objected to the professor's participation in the conference.

Their opposition, the sources said, had stemmed from the Bangladesh government's handling of Jamaat-e-Islami leaders.

President of Karachi University Teachers Society Prof Jamil Kazmi said teachers in principle supported the freedom of speech, and no student organisation should be allowed to interfere in academic matters.

"Having said so, I do believe that concerns relating to Dr Imtiaz Ahmed have some genuine grounds considering his work; some of which is available on the internet. His work is controversial and, to some extent, against our country and ideology," the report quoted him as saying.

Move to close cancer institute condemned

KHULNA : Leaders of different professional and socio-cultural organizations observed programmes in protest of shifting equipments of Khulna station of BTV and the move to close the proposed Cancer Institute of Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) to Dhaka, reports BSS.

The leaders expressed their grave concern on the issues and demanded sending of BTV equipments back to Khulna immediately and not to move machineries from Khulna Cancer Institute to Dhaka.

The leaders of Greater Khulna Action Coordination Committee (GKDACC) today at a press conference at Khulna Press Club sought intervention of the Prime Minister, Health Minister and Information Minister into the matter.

Secretary General of the committee Sheikh Mossarraf Hossain read out the statement at the conference and alleged shifting of a camera, one set of editing panel and one video monitor from Khulna station of BTV to Dhaka last week exposed conspiracy to deprive the people of Khulna region.

President of the committee Sheikh

Ashrafuzzaman, ex-president advocate Daud Ali, Law maker of Khulna-2 constituency and newly elected general secretary of Khulna city unit AL Mizanur Rahman Mizan, President of city unit BNP Nazrul Islam Monzu, Mayor of Khulna City Corporation and general secretary of city unit BNP Moniruzzaman Mony, among others, addressed the conference. The leaders demanded of the government to allocate necessary fund for setting up a full-fledged cancer institute.

"We fervently appeal the government to fulfill our demand for a full-fledged TV station in Khulna as early as possible," they said.

They urged the government for not shifting two important equipments to Dhaka from the proposed Cancer Institute set up at the KMCH.

Meanwhile, the leaders of Khulna Cultural Development Committee (KCDC) on Tuesday handed over a memorandum to the Prime Minister, the Health Minister and the Information Minister through Khulna Divisional Commissioner Md. Abdus Samad.

Convener of The committee Swapon Guho, join convener advocate Mina Mizanur Rahman, among others, were also present at the programme.

People of all strata under the banner of 'Sacheton Nagorik of Khulna' formed a human chain on Tuesday in front of KMCH.

Law maker of Khulna-2 constituency Mizanur Rahman Mizan, AL leaders Kazi Enayet Hossain, Sheikh Siddiqui Rahman, among others, addressed the programme.

While talking to KMCH superintendent Dr. Abdus Samad said the government sent the machines worth about Tk 24 crore to KMCH for treatment of cancer patients in southern part of the country.

"I strongly opposed the decision when this issue came up for discussion in a high level meeting held on November 26 in the Ministry of Health with the Health Minister Md. Nasim in the chair," he said. The Health Minister formed a three-member committee in the meeting to submit a report if these two very important machines are at all needed for Cancer Institute of KMCH or not, he added.

Bangladesh to coordinate LDCs in global climate conference

DHAKA : Bangladesh has been entrusted with task of coordinating the Least Developing Countries (LDCs) in the global climate conference being held in the Peruvian capital of Lima, reports UNB.

Secretary of Forest and Environment M Nazibur Rahman, who is now attending the conference, termed it as a special recognition for the country to get

responsibility of coordinating the LDCs group, according to a message received here today.

On the second day of the conference being hosted by the Government of Peru, he said, Bangladesh is giving priority on how to get the highest benefit from different funds being created under climate diplomacy there.

The conference lauded gender work plan formulated by

Bangladesh and Senegal supported the plan after it was placed before the CMP, Rahman said.

He said all government and private representatives are attending the 12-day conference that began on December 1. They will sit together tomorrow for making Bangladesh's presence in the Lima climate conference more effective than before.

Mother hangs herself killing disabled daughter in Rajbari

RAJBARI : A woman allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself after killing her physically challenged daughter at Durgapur village in Kalukhali upazila on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Taslima Khatun, 35, wife of farmer Hanif Khan, and their daughter Happy Khatun, 9, of the village.

Locals said Hanif and Taslima used to engage in frequent quarrels over looking after their daughter Happy who could not move of her own.

The couple picked a quarrel over the issue on Wednesday morning.

After the argument, Hanif went to field for work.

When Hanif returned home at noon, he found the door locked from inside.

As no one responded to his repeated calls, he stormed into the house breaking open the door only to see Taslima hanging from a beam. When Hanif started searching for his daughter, he found her body wrapped inside a quilt.

Mamata agrees with From Page-1

Mamata had hinted at her party's changing role on the enclave issue before the Lok Sabha election in March. When the draft of the land boundary agreement was made during a parliamentary panel meeting last week, the representatives of the TMC agreed to it.

The new stand of the TMC is a marked departure from what it had spoken earlier on the issue. Mamata Banerjee had stalled talks between India and Bangladesh over the sharing of the Teesta River water and also pulled out of the Bangladesh-bound entourage of former prime minister Manmohan Singh, causing immense embarrassment to New Delhi.

The protocol that was signed between New Delhi and Dhaka in 2011 could not be ratified in Parliament. In September 2013, when the then UPA government tried to table the Bill in Rajya Sabha, it was torn off by the protesting TMC MPs. It was said that the enclave swap would put Mamata's key vote-bank of minorities under threat.

Failure to handle From Page-1

Bangladesh has been importing 500MW electricity through the lines. But, later on, Power Division officials shifted their stance without any explanation.

Even, they failed to determine the actual reason behind the nationwide disaster in the power system that kept the whole country in blackout for about 11 hours.

While placing the recommendations at a press briefing at the Power Ministry conference room, State Minister for Power and Energy Nasrul Hamid said they believed that the current half-manual, half-automated system in the national load dispatch centre that failed to handle the under-frequency problem has been the main reason of the nationwide grid failure on November 1.

He admitted that so far there has been the main focus on power generation without giving simultaneous attention to the other two segments -- power transmission and distribution.

14th most corrupt From Page-1

As per the report countries such as Guinea, Kenya , Laos and Papua New Guinea remains at par with Bangladesh with each scoring 25.

On the other hand Bhutan has been denoted as the least corrupt country, whilst Afghanistan as the worst. Afghanistan has secured the 172nd position with a score of 12. Other two South Asian countries, Nepal and Pakistan scored 29 and jointly secured the 126th position. Whereas, India and Sri Lanka jointly secured the 85th rank with 38 points.

On the other hand the top position of the report has been secure by Denmark with a score of 92 followed by Somalia and North Korea.

40 DU students got Sumitomo Corporation scholarship

DHAKA : A total of 40 under-graduate students from different academic years of Dhaka University (DU) were awarded Sumitomo Corporation Scholarship, Japan yesterday, reports BSS.

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique distributed the scholarships among the students as the chief guest at a function at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of the university, according to a press release.

Minister of the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh Takeshi Matsunaga and General Manager of the Sumitomo Corporation Naoto Yamada were present on the occasion as special guests.

The DU VC thanked the Sumitomo Corporation authorities for providing the scholarship to DU students and hoped that the students would be benefited and encouraged by this donation.

Awardees of different years are: First year (Hons.)- Fariha Tasnim (Physics), Mishu Rani Mazumder (Mathematics), Prantika Mutsuddi (Management Studies), Amit Barua (Accounting & Information Systems), Amal Chandra Mondal (Marketing), Md. Kamrul Hasan (Banking & Insurance), Lizainul Islam Ripon (International Business), Kazi Golam Tasfiq (Economics), Jannatul Rafeya (Microbiology) and Zarif Hossain (Genetic Engineering & Bio-technology).

Second year (Hons.)- Md. Alamgir Hossain (English), Asia Haque

(Physics), Nurun Naher (Accounting & Information Systems), Sugandha Jesmin (Marketing), Mahmuda Sultana (Management Studies), Kazi Mahbuba Ahmed (Economics), Ema Sultana Charu (Public Administration), Syed Hasan Imtiaz (Genetic Engineering & Bio-Technology), Sirajum Munira (Pharmacy) and Jinher Zahedi (IBA) [ Third year (Hons.)- Hafsa Akter (English), Tasmin Jahan (Marketing), Md. Anamul Haque (Finance), Sahera Khan (Economics), Tahmina Yeasmin Toma (International Relations), Saima Afrin (Zoology), Anupoma Niloya Troyee (Biochemistry & Molecular Biology), Tanzila Efat Taskin (Psychology), Md. Inja-Mamun Haque (Fishes) and Afrin Jahan Lopa (Applied Chemistry & Chemical Engineering).

Fourth year (Hons.)- Sharaban Tahura (Islamic Studies), Nayeema Sultana (Marketing), Arrahma Binte Akram (Political Science), Eusra Mohammad (Genetic Engineering & Bio-Technology), Mahnaz Hossain Fariba (Genetic Engineering & Bio-Technology), Kumar Kulldeep Niloy (Pharmacy), Selina Akter (Applied Physics, Electronics & Communication Engineering), Rehana Parvin Roshnee (Applied Statistics), Sylvi Pinky Chakrabarty (Applied Statistics) and Rayhan Hossain (Information Technology).

goodbye to Phillip Hughes

From Page-1

that "the entire cricket world is in shock and a state of grief".

In Hughes' small hometown of Macksville, on Australia's east coast, tributes to the opener who scored three centuries in 26 Tests hung in shop windows, while ribbons in the green and gold colours of the Australian Test team adorned telephone poles.

The funeral was a huge event in Macksville, with shops closing and residents in mourning. Just outside town, one business created a huge tribute using three cherry pickers as cricket stumps and putting Hughes' Test number 408 across them.

At Hughes's old primary school, St

Patrick's, dozens of bats lined the front fence, many bearing messages remembering the hugely popular opener who was not out on 63 when he was struck.

A photo memorial, flowers and cricket equipment were laid behind the stumps where Hughes was struck down last Tuesday. The pitch and centre square were roped off as a mark of respect, and the pitch on which Hughes played his final game will be retired and not used again this summer.

Hughes' parents Greg and Virginia and siblings had invited the whole town to the service at Macksville High School, where about 1,000 crammed into the hall and hundreds more watched on screens in overflow areas.

<div><div><div><div><div><div></div><div>নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর</div></div></div><div><div><div>বিক্রয় ও বিতরণ বিভাগ, বাকলিয়া</div><div>বিউবো, সেয়দশাহ রোড, চট্টগ্রাম।</div></div></div></div><div>সূত্র নং-বিবিবি-বা/চবিস/১৪/৩৬৯</div><div>তারিখ: ১৭/১১/১৪</div><div>“দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি”</div><div>“বিদ্যাৎ সাদস্য্য পাতি ব্যবহার করুন”</div></div></div>			
০১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	:	বিদ্যাৎ বিভাগ (বিদ্যাৎ জ্ঞানালী ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়)।
০২।	এজেন্সি/প্রতিষ্ঠান	:	বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যাৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড।
০৩।	প্রকিউরিং এনটিটি নাম	:	নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, বিক্রয় ও বিতরণ বিভাগ-বাকলিয়া, বিউবো, চট্টগ্রাম।
০৪।	কাজের বিবরণ/সরবরাহের নাম	:	বিবিবি-বাকলিয়ার গাড়ী নং- চট্টগ্রাম-৬-১২৭৩, মেরামত ও সংরক্ষণ কাজ।
০৫।	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	:	খোলা দরপত্র।
০৬।	কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়সীমা	:	১৫ (পনেরো) দিন।
০৭।	টিকাদারের যোগ্যতা	:	প্রকৃত যানবাহন মেরামতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান।
০৮।	বাজেট তহবিলের প্রকৃতি	:	২০১৪-২০১৫ ইং অর্থ বৎসর (যানবাহন মেরামত ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ খাত)।
০৯।	দরপত্র ক্রয় মূল্য	:	১৫০/- (একশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা প্রতিসেট।
১০।	জামানত (ফেরতযোগ্য)	:	৪৫০০/- (চার হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকা।
১১।	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রির দপ্তর	:	ক) প্রধান প্রকৌশলী, বিতরণ দক্ষিণাঞ্চল, বিউবো, চট্টগ্রাম এর দপ্তর, খ) তত্ত্বা: প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, পওস: সার্কেল, চট্টগ্রাম (পূর্ব), বিউবো, চট্টগ্রাম। গ) ম্যানেজার, অগ্রণী ব্যাংক, রিয়াজউদ্দিন বাজার শাখা, চট্টগ্রাম।
১২।	দরপত্র দলিল গ্রহণকারীর দপ্তর	:	নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কক্ষে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বক্সে।
১৩।	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রির শেষ দিন ও সময়	:	২২/১২/২০১৪ ইং।
১৪।	দরপত্র দলিল দাখিল ও খোলার শেষ দিন ও সময়	:	২৩/১২/২০১৪ ইং দুপুর ১২.০০ টা ১২.৩০ টা সময় উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে খোলা হইবে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।
১৫।	বিশেষ শর্ত	:	ক) পিপিআর-২০০৮ অনুযায়ী সকল কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা হইবে। খ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র বাতিল ও গ্রহণের ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।
১৬।	কার্য সম্পাদন জামানত	:	দেয় দরের ১০% Notification Award পত্র ইস্যুর ১৪ দিনের মধ্যে উপ-পরিচালক (হিসাব), আহিদি, চবিস, বিউবো, চট্টগ্রাম-এর বরাবরে ডিডি/পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে পারফরমেন্স গ্যারান্টি হিসাবে প্রদান করিতে হইবে।
১৭।	দরপত্র ক্রয়ের পূর্বানুমতির সময়	:	মূল সনদপত্র প্রদর্শন করিতে হইবে।
প্রকৌ: শেখ কাওছার মাহুদ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী আইডি নং- ১-১৭০১ বিক্রয় ও বিতরণ বিভাগ-বাকলিয়া বিউবো, চট্টগ্রাম			
বিদ্যাৎ/জন- ৫২১ (২)/৩/১২/১৪ জিডি-১৭০৩/১৪ (৯৫৩)			





## Mujahid's appeal hearing on Jan 14

DHAKA : The Appellate Division on Wednesday set January 14, 2015 for hearing the appeal seeking acquittal by condemned convict war criminal Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujahid, reports UNB.

A five-member Appellate Division bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice M Muzammel Hossain, fixed the date.

After finding the infamous 1971 Al Badr boss guilty of five, out of seven charges, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 on July 17 last year awarded Mujahid, also a technocrat minister of the last BNP-led alliance government, death penalty for committing crimes against humanity, including murder of intellectuals, and genocide, during the Liberation War in collaboration with the Pakistan occupation forces.

## Daud Merchant put on 3-day remand

DHAKA : A court here on Wednesday placed Abdur Rauf Daud Merchant, an Indian goon and an associate of mafia don Daud Ibrahim, on a three-day remand in a case filed under section 54, reports UNB.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Nuru Mia passed the remand order rejecting his bail petition submitted by his lawyer Mohammad Hemayet Uddin Khan Hiron.

Earlier, Mohammad Golam Rasul, a DB sub-inspector and also the investigation officer of the case, produced him before court seeking a seven-day remand for him.

A DB team rearrested Daud Merchant, a resident of Sharifa Road in Mumbai, India, from the city's Khilgaon intersection on Tuesday afternoon.

He was later shown arrested in the case filed under section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.



Police swoop on the students of Diploma Medical Technology and Pharmacy students who were staging demonstration to meet their 10-point demand in Barisal. Photo : Banglar Chokh.

## JaPa MPs to quit Cabinet : Ershad

RANGPUR : Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad on Wednesday said his party members will surely quit the cabinet as they do not want to take the responsibility of this government's failures, reports UNB.

"We'll take a decision to this end today or tomorrow. We'll definitely take the decision. My wife and the opposition leader also said we'll ultimately step aside from the cabinet," he said. Talking to reporters at his Rangpur residence, Ershad further said, "We're yet to finalise the date. We'll finalise the decision after discussing it with the party presidium members." Earlier in the day, Ershad, also a special envoy to the Prime Minister, arrived in Rangpur on a three-day visit.

The former military ruler voiced his anger and frustration over the question paper leak of the primary terminal exams. "The question preparers of the primary exams have got

leaked. Where're we taking the country to? It's now become a burning question to people."

Criticising the government for what he said its failure to rein in its associate bodies, the Jatiya Party chief said Chhatra League and Jubo League are indulging in infightings and killings. "But the government is not taking any effective step to check those."

He said people are suffering from serious sense of insecurity due to severe deterioration in the law and order situation. "People now want a change as they are not in peace. They don't want to see Awami League and BNP in power any more as they've understood that only Jatiya Party can ensure peace and security." Claiming that there is no rift in his party in Rangpur, Ershad said all of its candidates will come out successful from all the seats here in the next polls. He also said his party is ready to go to polls anytime.

## Another Rab man 'confesses' to 7 murders

NARAYANGANJ : Another Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) member reportedly made his confessional statement before a local court on Wednesday over his part in the sensational seven-murder incident, reports UNB.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Ishtiaque Ahmed Siddiqui

recorded the statement of detained Nuruzzaman under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Nuruzzaman, an army men posted at Rab on deputation as a constable, recently went on voluntary retirement.

Court sources said Nuruzzaman made confessional statement in both the case filed over the seven murders.

Earlier, he was arrested from his village home at Hajipur village in Sadar upazila in Magura on Tuesday evening.

## Khaleda to address public rally in N'ganj Dec 13

DHAKA : BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia will go to Narayanganj on December 13 (Saturday) to address a public rally of her party-lead 20-party alliance in the district, reports UNB.

The 20-party is going to arrange the rally protesting the 'growing' incidents of killing, enforced disappearance, abduction and the government's repressive acts.

The rally is also meant for drumming up public support in favour of their demand for snap polls under a non-party administration.

The schedule for the rally was finalised on Tuesday night at a meeting between Khaleda and Narayanganj unit BNP senior leaders at the BNP chief's Gulshan office.

Contacted, Narayanganj BNP president Taimur Alam Khandaker said they have decided to hold the rally at Kanchpur Balurmath and talked to the local authorities concerned about permission for it.

## President for concerted efforts to establish rights of disabled

DHAKA : President Abdul Hamid on Wednesday underscored the need for concerted efforts to establish the rights and dignity of the people with disabilities, reports UNB.

"Persons with disabilities are our close ones. They're not responsible for their predicament... it's not compassion; rather, they want their right and dignity. We've to establish their right and dignity through concerted efforts," he said.

The President made the observations while addressing a programme marking the 23rd International Day of Persons with Disabilities and the 16th National Day of Persons with Disabilities at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city.

President Abdul Hamid said scopes would have to be created for the persons with disabilities to bring them in the mainstream of the society through education and training apart from love.

"For this reason, the disabled child and his/her parents would have to come forward. We've to keep in mind that firm determination, courage and perseverance are needed to win over the disability," he added. The President also emphasized on both private and public initiatives to build the persons with disabilities as efficient and self-reliant persons.

"The theme of the day is 'Sustainable Development: The Promise of Technology'. I believe, if we can enrich the persons with disabilities with the knowledge of information technology, they too will be able to contribute more in the national development," he said. Social Welfare Minister Syed Mohsin Ali, State Minister Promode Mankin, Social Welfare secretary Nasima Begum, president of Jatiya Protibondhi Forum Saiful Haque and managing director of Jatiya Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation Nurul Kabir also spoke on the occasion.

## Bangladesh : a battle field for Hijra

AHMED NUR

Sushtho Jibon, managing director of Hijra Bobby described her life experience to The Bangladesh Today and said "I used to monitor myself in the beginning. And tried to control how I walked, talked, behaved and dressed up, just to hide my sexuality. I tried to fit in the common culture of the world."

"There was a huge feeling of incompleteness all the time - having something wrong with my body and not being able to connect with my soul." "I could not die," Bobby said with a smile. "And that was turning point in life, I thought of living my life, as I couldn't end it."

Although 'Hijra group' is recognized in all prominent documents, they are involved in many unwanted deeds in the society.

On February 2, 2014, a team of disguised 'Hijra' forcefully cut the penis of a boy named Raihan in capital's Lalbagh area aiming to use him as a hijra. A case was filed in Lalbagh police



station on this incident, but the concerned police paid no heed.

A source at Lalbagh area, who liked to stay anonymous, provided many information regarding the hijra's. He said, "Actually, a number of culprits are involved in many unsocial activities in the name of 'Hijra', we can't stop them as they frightens us." "An experienced team of around 40 members, among them only 4 or 5 are 'Hijra' have been indirectly hijacking the parents in the name of teaching their children how to dance"

Dhaka University Sociology department professor, Shah Ehsan Habib talked about the discriminating attitudes on 'Hijra'

from different spheres of the society.

He said, "They are being denied their rights in various sectors including education, health and housing because of their gender."

"The negative attitudes and negligence from the society made it hard for them to lead a normal life. In the end most of them got involved in sexual businesses."

He also added, "Besides being engaged in prostitution sector, sometimes they are seen claiming extortion from general people even in public trains, buses, launches and other public places."

Assistant Inspector General of Police (Media) Jalal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury said, "Police is always alert to curb any sort of crimes in the society. Sometimes we forgive the little categorized crimes, as they are the marginal group of the society."

"If we find any major crimes led by hijras, we will definitely take stern steps against them to ensure a crime free society", he added.

## The 77-Year-Old Weightlifting Champ!

INTERESTING NEWS

When Willie Murphy gets in the gym, it's clear that she's not a typical 77-year-old. Murphy, of Rochester, New York, is able to do feats of strength that are difficult for people of any age. One-handed pull-ups, one-handed pushups, and fingertip pushups are no problem for Murphy, the Mirror reports.

The 105-pound grandmother can also deadlift 215 pounds, a feat that recently won her the coveted World Natural Powerlifting Federation 2014 Lifter of the Year at last month's WNPF World Championships in Riverdale, Georgia.

Murphy started lifting just a

few years ago when she saw a sign at her local YMCA for a weight-lifting competition. When she asked if she could participate, an employee said, "Go for it, granny," according to the Rochester Democrat And Chronicle.

Murphy works out three days a week, and says it's important for younger people to see her at the gym. "They see I'm old and I'm not being pushed around in a wheelchair," she said, according to USA Today. "I can shovel my own snow. And I can push my car if it gets stuck in the snow... I'm almost 80 years old and I am still living life."



## 9 BCL men put on 2-day remand over SUST violence

SYLHET : A court here on Wednesday placed nine activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) unit on a two-day remand in connection with two separate cases filed over the recent BCL infighting at SUST that left a BCL man dead, reports UNB.

Mohammad Anwarul Haque, Judge of the Sylhet Metropolitan Magistrate Court-1 passed the order as Atiqur Rahman, sub-inspector of Jalalabad Police Station and also the investigation officer of the case, sought a five-day remand for each on Monday.

The BCL men are Jayanta Das, Ashique Mursalin, Ujjal Ahmed, Naim Ahmed, Belal Ahmed, Sajal Das Anik Mehedi Hasan, Emran Hossain and Sultan Ahmed.

Earlier, Sumon Das, 22, an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was killed and 17 others were injured in a factional clash of the ruling party's student wing over establishing supremacy on the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) campus on November 20 (Thursday).

Two cases were filed on Saturday against 370 unidentified people in connection with the incident.



A mobile flag vendor walking on the capital's road in the month of victory. The picture was taken from Dhanmondi area on Wednesday. Photo: Banglar Chokh

## 78 receive facial surgeries in Sylhet

DHAKA : Some 78 patients living near Chevron's Jalalabad gas-plant - mostly children - received life-changing surgeries to correct cleft-lip, cleft-palate and other facial deformities in a move to mark the end of Rotaplast International's mission to Sylhet, reports UNB.

Chevron Bangladesh sponsored the 10-day mission in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Jalalabad and Sylhet Women's Medical College & Hospital for their efforts to arrange the medical camp.

Principal of Sylhet Women's Medical College & Hospital, Professor Dr. Md. Rezaul Karim, Country Coordinator of the mission, the Rotary Club's Past District Governor (PDG) Dr. Monzurul Haque Chowdhury, Chevron Bangladesh External Affairs Director, Naser Ahmed, and Co-Founder and Medical Director of Rotaplast International, Angelo Capozzi, M.D also spoke on the occasion.

will now get a chance to live normal lives made possible by Chevron's generous contribution. He thanked Rotary Club of Jalalabad and Sylhet Women's Medical College & Hospital for their efforts to arrange the medical camp.

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## 36 held for illegal voyage to Malaysia

DHAKA : Members of Bangladesh Coast Guard detained 36 people from Chittagong boat club area on Tuesday night while trying to go to Malaysia illegally by a trawler, reports UNB.

Five crew of the trawler and an alleged human trafficker were also arrested. The arrested human trafficker was identified as Md Kabir Hossain, 60.

Tipped off, an operational team of Coast Guard patrol vessel Shedgong conducted a drive in the area and detained them at about 9:00 pm. Sources at the Coast Guard headquarters said the 36 people were gathered in Majhighat area near Chittagong boat club to send them to Malaysia through the sea route illegally.

## Arms, ammo recovered on C'nawabganj border

CHAPAINAWABGANJ : Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) recovered three pistols, six magazines and 12 rounds of bullet from Kaliganj area at Mankasha border point in Shibganj upazila early Wednesday, reports UNB.

Additional director Major Sheikh M Mizanur Rahman of Chapainawabganj BGB Battalion-9 said on secret information, a team of the border force conducted a drive in the area and recovered three pistols, six magazines and 12 rounds of bullet in an abandoned condition.